

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**AFN closes
Frankfurt
studio for good**

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Gary Bautell,
left, Herb
Clover

**Pumped-up prices:
AAFES gas costs
to climb 11 cents**

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**Collector's dream:
Louisville Slugger to sell
Hall of Famers' treasures**

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"Shoelless" Joe Jackson's bat

Volume 63, No. 195

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2004

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Pentagon forced to stop anthrax shots

Judge rules FDA improperly approved vaccine for use Page 3

From cursed to first

Red Sox top Cardinals to finish improbable sweep,
wins first World Series since 1918 Back page



AP photos

Above: Boston pitcher Bronson Arroyo leaps on top of teammates Jason Varitek, left, Doug Mientkiewicz and Keith Foulke after the Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 in Game 4 to win their first World Series title in 86 years Wednesday at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Left: People at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst celebrate after the Red Sox victory.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Laci Peterson trial: Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial were sent home Wednesday with orders to return Monday for closing arguments after prosecutors and defense attorneys decided against calling additional witnesses.

Prosecutors had said they planned to call eight witnesses after Peterson's lawyers ended their case Tuesday. But when jurors returned Wednesday afternoon, Judge Alfred A. Delucchi said both sides had decided against having additional testimony in the five-month-long case.

Instead, Delucchi read four statements into the record. They dealt with testimony regarding concrete work being done at the home of the Petersons' neighbor, an e-mail recovered from the couple's computer, a store receipt and a printout regarding San Francisco Bay from Scott Peterson's computer.

Clinton's health: Former President Clinton may be out on the campaign trail, but he says he feels a bit detached "from the to and fro of the elections."

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC News' "Primetime Live," Clinton also says he prayed for his family before his Sept. 6 heart bypass operation and enjoyed the enforced rest that followed.

"I feel kind of distant from the to and fro of the elections," Clinton says in excerpts made available Wednesday. "I just like these things I see happening, I and shake my head and say, 'Gosh, I did it for 20 years. I know, but it doesn't have much to do with how we're gonna live when it's over.' On the other hand, I think it matters profoundly."

He says he suffered no depression after the surgery and didn't mind the recuperation.

Philadelphia corruption probe: Prosecutors won four convictions Wednesday in a case related to a wide-ranging corruption investigation that involved FBI wiretapping of city officials and their political supporters.

Faridah Ali, 54, the director of a Muslim school in Philadelphia, was convicted on charges she conspired to defraud a city community college of about \$224,000 by setting up an adult education program involving nonexistent students and classes.

Ali's two children, Lakisha Spicer, 27, and Azheem Spicer, 30, were convicted of accepting money to teach courses in the program when they actually performed little work. Eugene D. Weaver III, 30, the son of a Philadelphia Community College administrator, was convicted on the same grounds.

Business

Delta Air Lines woes: Delta Air Lines Inc. took a giant step away from bankruptcy when the pilots union tentatively agreed to a \$1 billion package of contract concessions,



Love assault case: Courtney Love leaves Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner Sanjay Kumar ordered the singer to stand trial on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon after listening to testimony from the alleged victim, Kristin King, and a neighbor in the area of the April 25 incident. "There is uncontroverted evidence that without provocation the defendant threw a bottle at the victim and chased her with a flashlight," Kumar said. Love was ordered to appear for arraignment Nov. 10.

including a 32.5 percent wage cut.

The deal was reached Wednesday after 15 months of negotiations that have intensified recent days, said Karen Miller, spokeswoman for the Air Line Pilots Association.

The wage cut becomes effective Dec. 1, and the agreement includes no wage increases for five years. The union rank and file will vote on the plan from Monday to Nov. 11.

World

Gibraltar talks: Spain and Britain agreed on Wednesday to include Gibraltar for the first time in talks over the disputed territory's future.

Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos met with his British counterpart Jack Straw in Madrid to discuss a new approach to a 300-year-old conflict.

The new focus will be aimed at improving relations between all parties involved and build at atmosphere of confidence, although Spain will continue to press to recover sovereignty over the Rock at its southern tip.

"I believe Gibraltar won't be a sticky issue any longer in our relations," Moratinos said at a press conference with Straw.

"It will become an issue where things will be worked out within a framework of cooperation and dialogue to resolve the different daily problems of the population," he said.

Negotiations over the future of the British colony came to a halt in Nov. 2002, when Gibraltar's 30,000 residents voted overwhelmingly in a nonbinding referendum against the idea of shared British-Spanish rule.

Darfur crisis: Rebel accusations that fresh government air-raids killed 26 civilians in Sudan's troubled Darfur region have cast a pall over peace talks in Nigeria, where African Union mediators trying to end the conflict are making little headway.

Mahgoub Hussain, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, said Wednesday that the bombings occurred Tuesday and Wednesday in the town of Alaiat, in eastern Darfur. But Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ismail, the deputy chief of staff of the Sudanese army, said there had been no fresh violence in the area.

Mine-clearing deaths: Prosecutors have dropped charges against two mine-clearing instructors from Britain and Bosnia who had been investigated in the May deaths of two Albanian trainees, officials said Thursday.

Handicap International, which oversaw the training, said charges were dismissed against Graham Rees of Britain, and U.N. officials in Albania said Emin Durakovic of Bosnia also was cleared of wrongdoing.

Rees, 45, and Durakovic, 40, were charged with violating rules on handling explosives after a May 24 explosion at a course they held in Kukles killed two Albanians and injured 15 others.

Bosnia's missing persons: Forensics experts said Wednesday they have generated DNA profiles from bone samples for more than 10,000 bodies unearthed from mass graves across the former Yugoslavia.

Adnan Rizvic, deputy head of the forensic science department of the International Commission for Missing Persons, said the profiles represent a third of all those still missing after the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The samples are ready to be matched with DNA taken from relatives of the missing.

Madrid bombings: In the first trial stemming from the train bombings in Madrid, Spain, a prosecutor will seek an eight-year jail term for a Spanish teenager charged with transporting dynamite used in the attacks, court officials said Thursday.

The juvenile court tried the 16-year-old is expected to be held behind closed doors next month. The boy's identity is known but Spanish media are barred from publishing it.

A National Court prosecutor announced Wednesday night she will seek eight years in a juvenile detention center for the boy, and after that five years' probation.

Stories and photo from wire services

Corrections

■ The list of casualties in Thursday's editions included incorrect information about the death of Army Sgt. Dennis J. Boles of Homosassa, Fla. Boles died Sunday after completing a 10-mile run.

■ The caption with a photo in Thursday's editions about the community expo at Dextera, Germany, misidentified the 3rd Corps Support Command.

Note to readers

Because of production problems at the Stars and Stripes print site in Griesheim, Germany, papers were not delivered to the United Kingdom until mid-Thursday. Stripes regrets the inconvenience.

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Court orders DoD to stop anthrax shots

Judge rules mandatory program 'illegal,' says FDA wrongly approved vaccine

By MARC KAUFMAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department must immediately stop inoculating soldiers with anthrax vaccine, a federal judge ruled Wednesday, saying the Food and Drug Administration acted improperly when it approved the experimental injections for general use.

Concluding that the FDA violated its own rules by approving the vaccine late last year, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan said the mandatory vaccination program — which has inoculated more than 1.2 million soldiers since 1998 — is "illegal."

Sullivan wrote that his ban on involuntary vaccination will remain until the FDA reviews the anthrax vaccine properly or until President Bush determines the normal process must be waived due to emergency circumstances. The Defense Department has

required many soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to be vaccinated and has punished and sometimes court-martialed those who refused. The department expanded its anthrax and smallpox vaccination programs in July to include troops stationed in South Korea and other areas in Asia and Africa, despite complaints from some soldiers that the vaccine made them sick.

In a statement, the Defense Department said it is reviewing the decision and will "pause giving anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation is clarified." DoD remains convinced that the anthrax immunization program complies with all the legal requirements and that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective.

In his decision, Sullivan wrote that the FDA's approval was invalid because it did not meet required review standards and failed to seek the necessary public comment.

"Congress has prohibited the administration of investigational drugs to service members without their consent," he said. "This Court will not permit the government to circumvent this requirement."

"The men and women of our armed forces deserve the assurance that the vaccines our government compels them to take into their bodies have been tested by the greatest scrutiny of all — public scrutiny."

This is the process the FDA in its expert judgment has outlined, and this is the course this court shall compel FDA to follow," Sullivan wrote.

The judge ruled on a suit filed in March 2003 by six servicemen who argued that the FDA never properly reviewed the vaccine for its ability to protect against inhalation anthrax. The suit claimed that the drug was never shown to be effective, and that some vaccinated soldiers

have experienced extreme fatigue, joint pain and temporary memory loss after being vaccinated.

The vaccine, made by BioPort of Lansing, Mich., is given as a series of several shots.

Mark Zaid, an attorney for the six who has also defended more than a dozen servicemembers court-martialed for refusing the vaccine, said one of his clients was a breast-feeding mother who did not think the vaccine was safe for her child.

"We will now initiate an effort to ensure the government reverses all punishments that were imposed for refusing an order to take the vaccine," Zaid said. He also will seek compensation for soldiers who were physically harmed.

"As we've seen in Iraq, there wasn't any actual threat from anthrax, so there was never any real need for the vaccine," Zaid said.

Sullivan initially ruled in late 2003 that the FDA had never ap-

proved the vaccine and ordered inoculations to stop. Eight days later, the FDA approved the vaccine based on an application made 18 years earlier, and the inoculation program resumed. Wednesday's ruling concluded the agency did not follow its own rules in deciding the vaccine was safe and effective.

In particular, Sullivan criticized the FDA for not allowing public comment on its decision — a prerequisite for any approval. The FDA argued that some comments had been submitted as part of a 2001 citizens' petition questioning proposals to begin the vaccinations, but Sullivan found them insufficient. "It is clear to this Court that if the status of the anthrax vaccine were open for public comment today, the agency would receive a deluge of comments and analysis that might inform an open-minded agency," he wrote.

Washington Post staff writer Bradley Graham and researcher Madama Lebling contributed to this report.

Rising fuel costs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced that gas prices will rise about 11 cents a gallon in most countries in Europe, a look at statewide prices:

	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current average	\$2,032	\$2,157	\$2,236	\$2,244
Month ago average	\$1,967	\$2,025	\$2,099	\$2,015
Year ago average	\$1,540	\$1,635	\$1,694	\$1,552

Source: AAA

Stars and Stripes

AAFES gas prices climb

By JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

U.S. drivers in Europe should stick up on fuel coupons this weekend before prices jump on Monday.

Fuel costs will climb next month as military officials increase prices by an average of about 11 cents per gallon for regular, unleaded, super- and super-plus gas, according to an Army and Air Force Exchange Service announcement. The price of diesel fuel is also going up in most areas by an average two cents per gallon.

The spike coincides with soaring prices in the United States, and prices could remain higher for the near future, AAFES officials say.

For example, the nationwide average for regular unleaded is now \$2.02, up 14 cents from last month, and nearly 30 cents from this time last year, according to the AAA.

While still a fraction of the cost of European prices at the pump, U.S. prices for most coupon users will still be considerably higher than average U.S. prices.

Here's how the new fuel costs, per gallon, will break down as Nov. 1:

■ Germany: regular unleaded — \$2.138; super-unleaded — \$2.235; super-plus — \$2.324; diesel — \$2.251.

■ United Kingdom: super-unleaded — \$2.169; diesel — \$2.185. (Super-plus is not available in the United Kingdom.)

■ The Netherlands: super-unleaded — \$2.325; super-plus — \$2.577; diesel — \$2.503.

■ Turkey: regular unleaded — \$1.996; super-unleaded — \$2.340; diesel — \$2.340.

■ Azores: super-plus — \$1.982.

Blaming the spike on increasing demand in China, along with potential disruptions in supply from war-torn Iraq as well as Russia and Venezuela, AAFES officials warn to "expect gasoline prices to remain high as long as demand remains strong and inventories remain lower than expected."

With a nod to troops returning home from extended deployments, military officials have extended Series 5 coupons with Sept. 30, 2004, expiration dates bought in Germany or the Netherlands to April 30, 2005.

The old coupons, however, are good at on-base military gas stations only.

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Friends mourn loss of a comrade

Corporal was found dead in Cambrai-Fritsch barracks

By JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — When Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Gethers, the acting first sergeant for Company C, 440th Signal Battalion, belted out Cpl. Jacques Francois Kessler's name, there were muffled sobs.

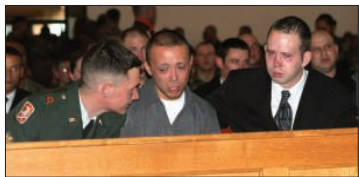
No one in the packed community chapel answered for the missing corporal, so instead, the wails of a 21-gun salute replied for the crowd. The corporal is dead.

A memorial service for Kessler, who was found dead in his Cambrai-Fritsch Casern barracks room late Monday morning, was held Thursday afternoon at the small community chapel.

The community's grief was seen in the faces of mourners. Many unit members, friends, and co-workers spoke of the "sudden and unexpected death," of Kessler, who was president of the 233rd Base Support Battalion Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

Jayne Loppnow, a spokeswoman for the 233rd BSB, said the Criminal Investigation Command has taken charge of the investigation, but is not speculating or releasing any information on how Kessler died.

Kessler's father, John, said he hasn't been given much informa-



MICHAEL HOWARD/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Spec. Gene Brown, left, of the 440th Signal Battalion, comforts mourners Thursday at Cpl. Jacques Francois Kessler's memorial service at the Cambrai-Fritsch Casern chapel in Darmstadt, Germany. Kessler was found dead Monday in his barracks room.

tion about his son's death.

"I don't know anything," John Kessler said during a telephone interview from his Ohio home. "I don't want to say anything that might be contradictory ... but there are rumors. I hear everything from foul play to suicide. We'll just have to wait and find out."

At the memorial service, Kessler's badge and company commanders remembered.

John Kessler said his son had a difficult time when the unit deployed to Iraq in March 2003. His son had "command problems" that never got resolved after returning to Darmstadt, the father said.

He called the details surrounding his son's death confusing. John Kessler said he doesn't know what to believe and hopes the military finds out something soon.

energy is what drew people to him.

"We should not grieve his death, but celebrate the life he had," Ridings said while controlling the emotion in his voice.

At the end of the service, photos of Kessler were displayed on a projection screen, many of which were taken with the unit while deployed.

John Kessler said his son had a difficult time when the unit deployed to Iraq in March 2003. His son had "command problems" that never got resolved after returning to Darmstadt, the father said.

He called the details surrounding his son's death confusing. John Kessler said he doesn't know what to believe and hopes the military finds out something soon.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.eastripes.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The "ON AIR" lights are out forever at the American Forces Network studios in Frankfurt, Germany. After nearly 60 years of broadcasting from the city, the network and its European headquarters have moved to a new location — Mannheim, Germany.

Silence in Frankfurt: AFN fades to black

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — There was fall foliage on the floor, pastries on a platter and the sounds of the last "AFN Morning Newswatch" wafting through the studio.

"It's been a long and wild ride," Army Staff Sgt. Scott Malone, the morning news anchor, calmly announced as the final seconds ticked away.

From behind a nearby mike, Herb Glover, a guest announcer, smiled.

"Stay tuned," said the retired 43-year AFN hand.

After six decades of broadcast

service to troops in Europe and beyond, the American Forces Network pulled the plug Thursday on its operations in Frankfurt. Later in the day, once the afternoon news show wrapped up, Mannheim formally became the new home of AFN-Europe.

While plenty of work remains to close the 38-year-old studio, there are obvious signs of a place in transition. Gear is coming down from the rafters, offices are being emptied and the size of the staff is skeletal. A further hint of change in the air: autumn leaves scattered here and there on the floor, as if to tell everyone that it's time to go.

"I wanted to close this place

down," said Malone, who was due to leave in May but was granted a six-month extension to remain in Frankfurt. "To be associated with the last show was a great honor."

In some ways, it was also a bit melancholy, given all the memories.

The last day, Glover said, "is not a celebration but an observance."

For weeks, if not months, equipment and personnel have been rolling south on Autobahn 5 toward the network's new home on Coleman Barracks. The Mannheim facility, formerly a mess hall, is equipped with cutting-edge technology that will greatly enhance AFN's broadcasting capabilities.

"The new facility is, indeed, super," news director Gary Bautell said during the morning show. "It is state-of-the-art in every way.... It is hard to find an adjective to describe the jump we are taking."

AFN took the leap to leave Frankfurt for a variety of reasons.

The drawdown of U.S. forces in the 1990s left the AFN folks in Frankfurt largely isolated from its audience. In addition, Army officials grew increasingly concerned about the safety of AFN personnel, given their high-profile mission.

Glover, who was the chief civilian executive for the network at the time, said the network in the late 1990s looked at many potential sites, from a casern named Frankenstein to a former champagne house.

Given where AFN settled when it arrived in Frankfurt in 1945, those options may not have seemed so absurd.



American Forces Network news director Gary Bautell, left, and former AFN director of broadcast services Herb Glover talk about the history of AFN in Frankfurt during the "AFN Morning Newswatch" show on the network's last day of broadcast from the Frankfurt studios.

For its first 21 years in the city, AFN-Europe was headquartered in the von Brünning Castle in Höchst, which is now part of Frankfurt. The network moved in 1966 to a site adjacent to Hessischer Rundfunk, the state of Hessen's broadcast network.

Glover, who along with Bautell spent Thursday regaling listeners with stories from yesteryear, said the new site even included a helicopter-landing pad, which is long gone.

"Everybody was in awe of this new, state-of-the-art facility," Bautell said during a radio break, referring to the Frankfurt facility.

Glover paid special tribute to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who

commanded Allied forces during World War II. It was Eisenhower, he noted, who had the foresight and interest in establishing a radio network for U.S. soldiers and sailors.

"Eisenhower is our godfather," Glover said.

As U.S. forces were preparing to invade the continent, Glover said, they grew tired of the stiffness of the British Broadcasting Corporation's radio shows. So much so, he added, "that our guys used to listen to the Nazi propaganda channels because they played better music."

Those days are long gone.

Today, Malone said, AFN is heard by U.S. military and civilian personnel in more than 60 countries.

Malone is due to depart Europe in a month or so. He said he plans to fill in from time to time, if needed, in Mannheim.

"I'm still not quite ready to leave," Malone said after the show. "I've got some things to do."

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Courtesy of AFN

In its first 21 years, AFN-Europe was located in the Von Brünning Castle in Höchst, which is now part of Frankfurt. The structure, which was constructed in the 14th century, was believed to be the oldest building to house an American radio station.

Air Force adds five specialties to CBR list

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force officials are tweaking the career job reservation, or CJR, list, adding five specialties to the "constrained" list, for which re-enlistments are prohibited without an airman retraining into another field, and dropping six other jobs from the roster.

Rules requires all first-term airmen must have an approved career job reservation before they can re-enlist, and only first-term airmen selected for re-enlistment by their commander are allowed to apply for a CJR.

If an airman has not gotten a CJR in the job he or she wants by the end of the re-enlistment window, he or she must either retrain into a shortage career field, or leave the service.

Effective Oct. 1, the five newly constrained jobs, Mitchell said, include:

■ 1T1X1 — Aircrew life support

■ 2A3X3b — Tactical aircraft maintenance for the F-16 and F-117 2A5X3D — Integrated avionics systems, communication, navigation, and mission

■ 2E1X4 — Visual imagery and intrusion

■ 3C0X1 — Communications computer systems operations

■ Also effective Oct. 1, the six jobs removed from the CJR list include:

■ 2A5X2 — helicopter maintenance

■ 2M0X2 — missile and space systems maintenance

■ 2R0X1 — maintenance management analysis

■ 2T3X3 — vehicle body maintenance

■ 2W1X1X — aircraft armament systems (includes basic job code and all suffixes)

■ 3E0X1 — electrical systems

The CJR was first used in the late 1970s, when retention was poor, but certain career fields were overmanned and those people

could be used elsewhere, according to service officials.

Now the service has a different problem: Despite a number of manning programs, the service is still over its congressionally authorized strength by 12,453 airmen, Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens said Thursday. The service has several "force shaping" options, including incentives to get people to join reserve units and the new "Blue to Green" inter-service transfer program to the Army, which needs to add 20,000 soldiers to its rosters.

Force shaping also includes the CJR, which Air Force officials decided to reinstate in May with 30 jobs listed as "constrained."

Air Staff officials look at job manning levels every month and adjust the list as necessary "because we constantly have people coming in and leaving," Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell, a spokesman for the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, told Stripes Thursday in a telephone interview.

For more information on the CJR and a list of constrained job codes, airmen should go to their Military Personnel Flight's re-enlistment office, or visit the CJR Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enklist/reenlistments/CJR.htm

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DODDS pupils re-elect Bush in several mock elections

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

While President Bush and Sen. John Kerry may be neck and neck in presidential election polls, if it were up to pupils from Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe, Bush would win by a landslide.

Pupils from all grades in many schools in Europe have been participating in mock elections or other election week events. Votes at many of the participating schools put Bush ahead, some by margins of up to 2-to-1.

Of schools and districts contacted, only the Heidelberg District's online voting program, which had 99 votes cast as of Thursday afternoon, had Kerry over Bush with 55 votes to 43, according to Juanita Harvin, an educational technologist from the district. Third party candidate Ralph Nader received one vote.

Many schools in the district also were holding their own elections with paper ballots, she said.

At Hofenfels Middle/High School, many students didn't care who won, or voted for the candidate their parents backed.

"I voted for Bush, because a my parents voted for him," said Kristi Welch, a Hofenfels ninth-grader. "I think he has done a good job as president when you consider all that he has up against."

Pupils from Sandy DeLaughter's eighth-grade U.S. history class organized and oversaw the election.

"Kids really have to understand the importance of voting," DeLaughter said.

"If we can get them hooked now, while they are still in school, they won't need to be voting as something they should do, but something they must do."

Some of the children, like seventh-grader E. Hays, were asked to enter a debate held the morning of the mock election.

"I voted for President Bush," Janni said. "He's awesome. He is doing his very best in everything he does for our country."



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Students pick up their ballots Wednesday for a mock presidential election held at Hofenfels Middle/High School in Germany. Only students who registered to vote could cast their ballots Wednesday. Sandy DeLaughter's eighth-grade U.S. history class ran the election, including seated and from left to right, Thomas Matuskey, Samantha Oberlin, Angela Reinick and Kimberly Howard.

When ballots were tallied at Hofenfels, 86 percent of the student body had voted, and the students picked Bush, with 61 percent of the votes.

In elections held in the Kaiserslautern District, about 2,200 pupils had voted as of Wednesday. Bush was ahead at that time by a margin of 2-to-1, said Frank Nosal, a Ramstein Elementary School teacher who helped coordinate the district's mock election.

The district organized election-related events in schools for about two weeks.

One favorite, Nosal said, was having pupils decide whose nose — Kerry's or Bush's — was shown in several photos on a computer screen.

"They got to pick the nose," Nosal said. "So that was fun."

A mock election was held at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden on Thursday. At about 1 p.m. Thursday, Bush was leading, despite the number of students registered as Democrats outnumbering registered Republicans more than 3-to-1, according to Jan Meyers, who teaches government at the school.

Pupils and teachers at the middle and high schools in Mannheim have been voting in a national online vote sponsored by Youth Leadership Initiative, a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. The stateside organization expects more than 1

million youths to cast votes during a two-week period.

Pupils at both schools also learned about the process of electing a president, the candidates and the issues. Middle school pupils studied political parties, the funding of elections, election issues and the election process. High school students focused on the complexities of the electoral college and conducted debates.

Sue Nehring, the Mannheim Middle School librarian who helped conduct the program, said it has been great for the pupils. She wrote in an e-mail, "They really seem to care about the election. We have stressed that the new president will have a great deal to do with decisions made about their lives, especially since most of the students have parents in the military."

In Gaeta, Italy, Jim Coyle, a social studies teacher at the Gaeta American School, said that the polling went well for their 180 participants, especially since the voting was done online.

"We thought this was the wave of the future," Coyle said. "People are going to vote online. It worked very smoothly."

Coyle said that informally, it seemed that the eighth-graders were equally divided between Bush and Kerry, but the younger pupils leaned toward Bush.

Shawn McCarthy, an eighth-grade history teacher at the Stephen Decatur School in Sigonella, Sicily, said about 900 pupils, teachers and parents took part in elections Wednesday and Thursday.

"[Students are] actually having to think about an issue and apply it to themselves and prioritize [their decisions]," he said.

Whether pupils took the mock elections seriously or not, it certainly inspired them to think about the candidates.

"It was really interesting, walking through the high school," McCarthy said. "In lieu of normal discussions, you hear echoes of 'who did you vote for' or the individual issues 'no, he's for the war' or 'he's for the death penalty.'"

Reporters Matt McEntee in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and Jason Chudy in Naples, Italy, contributed to this report.

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Army E-7 demoted for maltreatment

A noncommissioned officer in Iraq has been demoted for maltreatment of another soldier, then lying about it to investigators, according to a case summary prepared by the Task Force Danger staff judge advocate.

A special court-martial in Tikrit on Oct. 14, Sgt. 1st Class Wallace Boone, 39, of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, pleaded guilty to three counts of maltreatment, one count of making a false statement and one count of using provocative words.

Among the charges against Boone was an incident on

June 5, when Boone brought the soldier into his quarters at Task Force Danger in Tikrit.

He made the soldier write a letter to his father listing his deficiencies. He also made the soldier add a note at the end saying he had died "because he was not focused on the mission." Then he ordered the soldier to carry the note around with him.

Col. James Pohl, the military judge, recommended the demotion. The sentence now will be reviewed by the court-martial convening authority — in this case, the leadership of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division.

The sentence may be reduced or not increased, the

summary said.

Meet the Temptations on Saturday

Members of the Temptations singing group will meet the public and sign autographs at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's PowerZone at Mainz-Kastel, Germany, between 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday.

Five pairs of tickets to the group's concert Saturday night at Phönixhalle in Mainz will be given away.

From staff reports

Were explosives moved before war?

Officer says it's unlikely large-scale removal of explosives occurred after U.S. invasion

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry hammers President Bush's administration over the disappearance of nearly 400 tons of explosives in Iraq, Pentagon experts are suggesting the ordnance could have been moved before the United States invaded in March 2003.

An infantry commander said Wednesday it is "very highly improbable" that someone could have trucked out so much material once U.S. forces arrived in the area.

Col. David Perkins commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, the division that led the charge into Baghdad. Those troops first captured the Iraqi weapons depot from which 377 tons of explosives disappeared.

Two major roads that pass near the Al-Qaqa installation were filled with U.S. military tanks in the weeks after April 5, 2003, when U.S. troops first reached the area, the colonel said.

Perkins and others in the military acknowledged that some looting at the site had taken place. But he said a large-scale operation to remove the explosives using trucks almost certainly would have been detected.

Perkins, now a staff officer at the Pentagon, was made available to reporters by Defense Department spokesmen.

Just days before the Nov. 2 U.S. election,

the Kerry campaign has pointed to the missing explosives as evidence of the Bush administration's poor handling of the war. Bush officials have responded that more than a thousand times that amount of explosives and munitions in Iraq have been recovered or destroyed.

Mike McCurry, an adviser to Kerry, said, "From some of the Pentagon reporting today, there is a window that's available there where either just prior to or just after the invasion, there could have been an opportunity for either Saddam to move the weapons or for something happening after that facility had been abandoned."

"And that is up to the administration to best determine how to answer that question when that happened. But they don't have an answer, and that's what we're asking for," McCurry said.

Larry Di Rita, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said what ultimately happened to the explosives is unknown. The department is investigating, but Perkins' description seemed to point toward the possibility that the explosives were removed before the U.S.-led invasion to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, rather than during the chaos afterward.

The colonel did not directly offer that conclusion.

Meanwhile, The Washington Times reported Thursday that Russian special forces troops moved many of Saddam's weapons and related goods out of Iraq and into Syria in the

weeks before the March 2003 military operation.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Vyacheslav Seduk dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and "ridiculous."

"I can state officially that the Russian Defense Ministry and its structures couldn't have been involved in the disappearance of the explosives, because all Russian military experts left Iraq when the international sanctions were introduced during the 1991 Gulf War," he said.

John A. Shaw, the U.S. deputy undersecretary of defense for international technology security, told The Times in an interview that he believes the Russian troops, working with Iraqi intelligence, "almost certainly" removed the high-value material.

"The Russians brought in, just before the war got started, a whole series of military units," Shaw was quoted as saying. "Their main job was to shred all evidence of any of our technological achievements they had in the Iraqis. The others were transportation units."

Shaw, who was in charge of cataloging the tons of conventional arms provided to Iraq by foreign suppliers, said he recently obtained reliable information on the arms-dispersal program from two European intelligence services that have detailed knowledge of the Russian-Iraqi weapons collaboration.

Most of Saddam's most powerful arms were systematically separated from other arms like mortars, bombs and rockets, and sent to Syria and Lebanon, and possibly to Iran, he said.

Iraq to ask NATO to help equip its forces

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

MONS, Belgium — NATO countries are being asked to help equip Iraq's new soldiers and security officers once the fledgling Iraqi government figures out what it will need to combat insurgents.

Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander in Europe, said Thursday that nations are being asked to contribute small arms, light-armored vehicles, ASAT grenades, helicopters and basic aircraft.

"We're still in the initial stages," he said.

"We'll coordinate contributions both NATO and non-NATO members," Jones said.

"Anybody who wishes to contribute equipment," Jones said, "is speaking at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe, said the Iraqi government would ask for the specific assets it felt it needed to defeat the insurgents. So far, those insurgents have kidnapped hundreds of Iraqi men who signed up, or tried to sign up, to become soldiers or police officers in the new government."

Once the government requests the weapons and equipment it needs, NATO will try to arrange the transaction.

The initial outfitting of the Iraqi army and police would likely consist of "basic war-fighting equipment," Jones said. After the country gets back on its feet economically, NATO could then help coordinate sales and contributions to rebuild Iraq's decimated air force and navy.

Jones said that NATO was concentrating on collecting weapons used by former Soviet bloc countries, which was similar to the weapons used by Iraq's army under former President Saddam Hussein.

"We are trying to give them the type of equipment they are most familiar with, because that obviously saves time," Jones said.

The way that the equipment will be collected, paid for and distributed, and the time line for arming Iraq's soldiers and police, is still being worked out, Jones said.

W. J. Jones, a former U.S. military officer, said the equipment will be collected, paid for and distributed, and the time line for arming Iraq's soldiers and police, is still being worked out, Jones said.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.estripes.com

Experts troubled over missing weapons

Some thought other arms caches will fall into the hands of enemies

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Revelations that nearly 400 tons of conventional explosives have gone missing in Iraq have experts wondering what other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.

Even the U.S. State Department concedes it can't provide 100 percent security for 100 percent of the sites. "By all accounts, Iraq is studded with weapons depots — many in places where U.S.-led forces are preoccupied with their fiercest fighting."

Troubling questions about what other weapons might be vulnerable to looting have arisen since the U.N. nuclear agency's warning this week that 100 U.S. tons of non-nuclear explosives disappeared from the former Al-Qaqa military installation south of Baghdad.

"You'd think that those sites would be the highest priority for guarding in the immediate aftermath of the invasion," said Shannon Kyle, senior researcher on nuclear arms control and nonproliferation at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden.

The explosives missing from Al-Qaqa alone could pose hundreds of thousands of bombs — more than enough to "fuel an insurgency literally for years," Kyle said Tuesday.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei reported their disappearance to the U.N. Security Council on

Monday, two weeks after he said Iraq told his agency that the explosives had vanished as a result of "theft and looting ... due to lack of security."

The explosives included HMX and RDX, key components in plastic explosives, which insurgents in Iraq have used to deadly effect in months of bloody car bomb attacks on the U.S.-led multinational air force.

The explosives missing from Al-Qaqa alone could "fuel an insurgency literally for years," said Shannon Kyle, a senior researcher on nuclear arms control.

Among Iraq's known weapons depots is one near Khadiya, about 50 miles west of the capital, where a suicide car bomb attacked a U.S. convoy on Monday, destroying at least two Humvees. Others have been identified around Tikrit and in the desert near Karbala — places where U.S.-led forces have battled insurgents and been targeted by car bombs.

Last week, a U.S. patrol discovered a huge weapons cache at a large depot near Salman Pak, south of Baghdad. The cache included 450 anti-tank mines, 300 grenades, 35 rocket-propelled grenades, as well as mortar shells and primers.

Richard Guthrie, project leader for the Stockholm Institute's chemical and biological warfare project, said he doubts a single group of insurgents could have obtained the missing explosives.

"If this is in terrorist hands, then it's sort of a surprise that there aren't more large-scale bombings taking place," said Guthrie, who believes it is more likely the explosives were carried off by dozens of different looters in the post-invasion chaos.

The Pentagon said U.S.-led forces who searched the Al-Qaqa facility after last year's invasion found some explosive material, but none of it carried IAEA seals.

The nuclear agency's inspectors had to seal the storage bins shortly before the war because HMX is a "dual use" explosive that also can be used as an igniter on a nuclear bomb.

"Our greatest concern from both a proliferation standpoint and from a standpoint of danger to human beings was Al-Qaqa," Fleming said. The spokeswoman said the U.S. nuclear agency is questioning why Al-Qaqa — once a key facility in Saddam Hussein's effort to build a nuclear bomb — wasn't under 24-hour guard.

The facility was considered "the pre-eminent site for high ex-

Weapons at risk

The disappearance of 377 tons of explosives have experts worrying that other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.



SOURCE: International Atomic Energy Agency

plastic stockpiles," a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

"What is most disturbing is I can remember talking about these explosives after the fall of Baghdad, basically asking the question, 'Are these explosives protected?' said David Albright, former chief U.N. nuclear inspector who now runs the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

Fleming said the Iraqis have not reported any other missing materials to the IAEA, but that the agency's chief Iraq inspector, Jacques Baute, "would encourage more such reporting on what has happened to sites subject to IAEA verification."

Associated Press writer Mattias Karen contributed to this story from Stockholm, Sweden.

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Militants abduct, kill 11 Iraqi soldiers

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents slaughtered 11 Iraqi soldiers, wounding an Islamic militant Web site Thursday that the fighters will average "the blood" of women and children killed in American strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.

The wave of foreigner kidnappings claimed another victim — a Polish woman said to be married to an Iraqi. The kidnappers demanded that Poland withdraw its 2,400 soldiers and that the coalition free all Iraqi women held in the Abu Ghraib prison.

CARE International, meanwhile, announced it was shutting down operations in Iraq, as demanded by kidnappers of the organization's director for Iraq, Margaret Hassan.

Elsewhere, two more American soldiers were killed — one in a car bombing in southern Baghdad and the other in an ambush near Balad, 40 miles north of the capital.

In Tokyo, Japanese authorities said they had failed to enter the help of a prominent Iraqi cleric in trying to free Japanese hostages

Polish woman taken hostage

Shosei Koda who was shown in a video aired Tuesday.

An Al-Qaida affiliate led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to behead Koda in 48 hours unless Japan withdraws its troops from Iraq — a demand rejected by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The killing of the 11 Iraqi National Guardsmen was claimed by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, which posted a videotape of their brutal deaths on its Web site along with a warning for all Iraqi police and soldiers to desert or face death. The militants said earlier that the soldiers were abducted this week on the main road between Baghdad and Hillah, 60 miles to the south.

After forcing each of the soldiers to state his name and his unit, the militants forced one of them to the ground and sawed off his head. The others were forced to kneel with their hands bound as a gunman fired shots into the back of each of their heads.

A voice on the videotape warned all Iraqi soldiers and police to "repent to God, abandon

your weapons, go home and be wary of supporting the upstart Crusaders or their followers, the Iraqi government, or else you will only find death."

U.S. and Iraqi forces are gearing up for a possible assault on Fallujah and other militant strongholds west of Baghdad if community leaders do not hand over foreign fighters and extremists, including al-Zarqawi and his followers.

On Thursday, U.S. aircraft bombed a suspected insurgent safe house in Fallujah, killing two people, hospital officials said.

Insurgents also clashed with U.S. forces in Ramadi, 25 miles west of Fallujah and another militant stronghold. Two people were killed and four wounded, hospital officials said.

The Polish woman was the ninth foreign woman abducted in Iraq since a wave of kidnappings began last spring.

The kidnappers, who called themselves the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades, said the woman, who was not identified by name, was a Polish citizen



U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment prepare to enter a home during a raid in Ramadi, Iraq, on Thursday.

zen working with U.S. troops in Iraq. The militants demanded that Poland withdraw its troops from Iraq, as well as the release of all Iraqi female prisoners. Defense Minister Jerzy Szumajdzinski said the Polish government would not submit to the kidnappers' demands.

Also Thursday, a separate armed group calling itself Al-Islam's Army Brigades, Al-Karar

Brigade, said it obtained a "huge amount of the explosives" that are missing from the Al-Qaqa weapons installation south of Baghdad.

It threatened to use the weapons if U.S. and Iraqi forces attack insurgent strongholds in central Iraq. The claim couldn't be independently verified and the tape offered no evidence that the claim was genuine.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,109 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 971 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday when a motorcycle bomber attacked a U.S. convoy in central Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Brian Oliveira, 22, Raynham, Mass.; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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IN THE WORLD

Uncertainty surrounds EU Constitution signing

Referendums in 9 nations could put ratification in jeopardy

BY ROBERT WIELAARD

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — In ancient Rome, traitors were tossed off the city's Capitoline Hill. It is on that very site that 25 European leaders plan to sign the EU constitution on Friday — and they can only hope the document isn't destined for a similar, ignominious fate.

The charter is supposed to take effect in 2007, but uncertainty hangs over the EU's future shape amid doubts that Europeans are prepared to accept closer integration.

The challenges facing a united Europe were underscored in dramatic fashion Wednesday, when incoming EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso withdrew his entire team for a vote be-

fore the European Parliament as it became clear that the proposed commission was heading for a humiliating rejection.

To take effect, the constitution must be ratified by the legislatures of all EU states in 2005 and 2006. It's a tricky prospect, given that at least nine countries — Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Britain — plan to put the constitution to a referendum.

A single 'no' would stop the EU constitution in its tracks.

The charter lacks the sweep and grandeur that Euro-idealists had hoped for, and falls short of setting up the massive superstate Euro-skeptics feared. But in allowing for an EU president and foreign minister and offering a series of mechanisms for streamlining decision-making, it amounts to a key step forward — after the recent monetary union — toward integration.

European leaders approved the charter last June, after 28 months of difficult, often acrimonious negotiations. Its principal aim is to provide simpler voting rules to end decision gridlock in a club



Incoming European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, right, waits before addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday. Barroso withdrew his proposed 24-member executive team from consideration by the European Parliament on Wednesday, realizing he faced an unprecedented rejection.

that ballooned to 25 members this year and plans to absorb half a dozen more in the years ahead.

The constitution will be signed Friday in the same room — the Sala Degli Orzi e Curiaz — of a Renaissance palazzo where the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg signed the EU's founding Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957.

In the long term, the leaders' key challenge will be to explain the merit of ever more European integration to an increasingly skeptical European public.

Last June's European Parliament election was a shocker: They revealed a streak of Euro-skepticism even in economically-struggling countries that joined May 1 and had experienced decades of communist rule. Euro-skeptic candidates all did well in Lithuania, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Poland.

The constitution simplifies complex decision-making by requiring that, starting in 2009, measures can only be adopted if at least 15 nations representing at least 65 percent of the EU's 455 million population agree.

Rome enacts massive security measures before EU ceremony

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO

The Associated Press

ROME — Roman landmarks including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum will be closed, streets will be blocked off to traffic and thousands of police will be on patrol Friday as part of massive security measures for the signing of the European Union's proposed constitution.

The ceremony takes place on the Capitoline Hill in the heart of Rome. Hundreds of dignitaries were expected in the city, including heads of state and government of the bloc's 25 member states and four candidate states.

The city's center was already under tight security on Thursday.

Trash bins were removed in and around the area and manholes were welded shut. Some streets were sealed off to private vehicles, while parking was not allowed in many streets and piazzas.

Hundreds of policemen were patrolling tourist attractions. Already closed to the public

was the Vittoriano museum near Piazza Venezia, currently hosting a Degas exhibit, and the Bocca della Verità, the marble disc representing a human face with an open mouth that, as legend has it, chomps off the hands of liars.

The Roman Forum was expected to close later Thursday and the Colosseum will shut its doors Friday, city officials said.

In total, about 5,000 police and paramilitary carabinieri forces will be employed to protect the VIPs, news reports said.

Air travel also will be affected. The Ciampino Airport, which usually serves many low-cost companies, will be shut down until Saturday. At Rome's main Leonardo Da Vinci airport traffic is expected to be reduced by at least 20 percent on Friday, while the airspace over Rome will be closed to private aircraft.

The Circus Maximus will be turned into a landing space for helicopters carrying the dignitaries, according to Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero*.



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IN THE STATES

Bush, Kerry race to win Midwestern states

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
AND MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — In a stinging exchange, President Bush criticized Democratic challenger John Kerry as "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time" on Thursday while the Massachusetts senator accused his rival of constantly ducking responsibility for his own actions.

For the fourth consecutive day, Kerry assailed Bush over the disclosure that nearly 400 tons of explosives were missing in Iraq, and said the Republican president's attempt to compare himself to John F. Kennedy was off the mark.

"When the Bay of Pigs went sour, John Kennedy had the courage to look America in the eye and say, 'I take responsibility, it's my fault,'" Kerry said, referring to a bungled invasion of Cuba in 1961. "John Kennedy knew how to take responsibility for the mistakes he made and Mr. President, it's long since time for you to start taking responsibility for the mistakes you made."

The two men raced from one Midwestern state to another in the closing days of their close, contentious campaign for the White House. The polls, ubiquitous as they were, were of little use in forecasting the outcome of the election. Over and over, they made the race out to be a statistical tie, and battleground states too close to call.

Bush began his day in Saginaw, Mich., with an unstinting attack on Kerry.

"A president cannot bow in the wind," he said of Kerry.

"Senator Kerry has taken a lot



Left: President Bush stops to shake hands with supporters after speaking at a campaign rally at the Dow Event Center on Thursday in Saginaw, Mich. In his speech, Bush told the audience Sen. Kerry is "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time."

Right: Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., shakes hands and talks to members of the crowd after speaking at a rally at the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio, on Thursday morning. At the rally, Kerry accused Bush of ducking responsibility for his own actions.



AP photos

of different positions, but he's rarely taken a stand," Bush said. "Consistency is not the senator's strong suit."

Kerry campaigned first in Ohio, arguably the key to victory next Tuesday.

A Red Sox cap perched on his head, he recalled that last year when his campaign was struggling, a caller to a radio program said, "John Kerry won't be president until the Red Sox win the World Series."

"Well, we're on our way," he said to cheers.

Bush had his own World Series tie-in. Interviewed on ABC, Boston pitcher Curt Schilling urged viewers to vote for the president.

Kerry's crowd was raucous, so noisy that at one point he said, "I hope George Bush can hear that — that is the rumble of change comin' at him."

Kerry has turned the issue of missing explosives into a major focus of his campaign this week, and his running mate joined in.

"They had a responsibility to secure this material," Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina said on NBC's "Today" on Thursday. "It was important for securing Iraq, it was important for the safety of our troops, it was important for keeping that material out of the hands of terrorists. And what we know is, they didn't do it."

Bush sought to turn the contro-

versy to his own advantage. He said his rival was showing a "complete disregard for the facts. Senator Kerry will say anything to get elected," the president said.

Bush's campaign surrogates rallied to his defense.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the troops in Iraq, not the president, bore the responsibility for searching for the explosives, and he said no one knows if any mistakes were made.

"John Kerry wants to pretend we do know what happened," Giuliani told "Today." "We don't know what happened. The best possibility is that those explosives were gone before the troops got there... at least it's an equal possibility. John Kerry hasn't admitted that. Instead, John Kerry became an attack dog."

Bush was stumping in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the reverse order of a Pennsylvania-Ohio-Michigan swing Wednesday that was capped by an early evening crowd of close to

20,000 at the Pontiac, Mich., Silverdome, one of the best turnouts of his campaign. Kerry was focusing on Ohio and Wisconsin before swinging south to spend Friday in Florida.

Kerry was keeping up his drumbeat of criticism over the circumstances surrounding the explosives in Iraq.

"The missing explosives could very likely be in the hands of terrorists and insurgents, who are actually attacking our forces now 80 times a day on average," he said in Iowa on Wednesday.

The president struck back by saying the senator simply did not know what happened. "A political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief," Bush told supporters Wednesday.

Kerry retorted on Thursday, "Mr. President, I agree with you."

He then recited a list of times he said Bush had been guilty of just that.

Polls suggest Bush and Kerry are running even not only in Iowa and Michigan, but in an improbable variety of other battleground states and nationally as well. Bush pressed hard for crossover votes.

"If you're a Democrat, and your dreams and goals are not found in the far left wing of the Democrat party, I'd be honored to have your vote," he said at several appearances. Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday night in Wisconsin that the terrorists and insurgents "know once those elections are held, they're out of business. They've been said as much" in "communications that we've captured between Zarqawi and the bin Laden crowd." Cheney was referring to terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Associated Press writers Tom Raum in Pontiac, Mich., and Mike Glover in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, contributed to this report.

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Floridians told absentee ballots in mail

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — With voters jamming phone lines saying they haven't received absentee ballots in the mail, elections officials planned to mail out thousands of replacement ballots.

As election workers and the U.S. Postal Service traded the blame Wednesday, Broward County elections supervisor Brenda Snipes moved to solve the problem with less than a week left before the presidential election by sending duplicates to people who had not returned the original ballot.

Attention focused on a batch of 58,000 Broward ballots given to the Postal Service on Oct. 7-8. Though some voters have com-

pleted and returned ballots mailed those days, hundreds of others have failed to claim their ballots. It was unclear how many absentee ballots were affected.

"This isn't a blame game," Snipes told The Miami Herald.

"What we're concentrating on is getting the ballots to the voter," she was named to the job by Gov. Jeb Bush after the 2000 elections supervisor quit during the bitter presidential vote recount and her replacement was suspended for bumbling.

Snipes estimated she would resend no more than 20,000 ballots, but about 76,000 ballots sent by her office have not been returned.

Overnight mail was to be used

to send new ballots to voters living outside the county, such as college students.

Because of the volume of calls, Broward County commissioners assigned 40 new workers to phone duty at the election office and early voting sites, where voters have been routinely waiting in line up to two hours to reach touch-screen voting machines.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it investigated the questions about the Oct. 7-8 mailings and found no criminal violations. Enola C. Rice, a Postal Service spokeswoman in South Florida, said absentee ballots are handled separately from other mail and are processed and delivered immediately.

People who requested absentee ballots can always vote early or on Election Day, officials said. If a voter who asked for a ballot shows up at the polls, the absentee form is flagged so only one vote counts.

In Palm Beach County, Democratic lawmakers Wednesday called on elections supervisor Theresa LePore to take out newspaper ads informing voters of their options if they do not receive an absentee ballot. U.S. Reps. Robert Wexler and Alcee Hastings, along with state Sen. Ron Klein and Mayor Lois Frankel, said they have been inundated with calls from voters who are confused about the process or who have not received their ab-

sentee ballots.

They said the ads should tell voters that they can vote early at polling places across the county.

LePore's office has received a record number of requests for absentee ballots and had mailed more than 128,000 ballots by early this week. She said an additional 7,000 go out each day.

"I have no control over the post office," LePore said.

Tony Fransetta, president of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, said the delays could put thousands of seniors' votes in jeopardy.

Many older Americans rely on absentee ballots because are disabled or unable to drive to the polls, he said.



Mary Sullivan sits in her new home, where she is a live-in home care provider, in Bexley, Ohio. Sullivan was homeless when she registered to vote and her registration is now being challenged by Ohio Republicans.

Federal judge halts GOP's challenge to new Ohio voters

BY ANDREW WELSH-JUGGINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One voter picks up letters at the post office because trucks kept hitting his mailbox. Another serves in Iraq. Hundreds more are homeless, listing shelters as permanent addresses.

All are among the 35,000 whose eligibility has been challenged by the Ohio Republican Party. Since mail came back undelivered, the GOP says, those registrations could be fraudulent. Democrats say the GOP is trying to keep poor and minorities, who move more often, from voting.

A federal judge put a temporary halt to the challenges Wednesday, ruling in favor of Democrats who said the GOP was targeting new voters registered by political groups supporting Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic challenger to President Bush. U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott ruled that six

county elections boards should stop hearings scheduled this week in Ohio, a hotly contested state in the presidential election.

In southwest Ohio, Republicans challenged the registration of Surjo Banerjee, a fact his brother found unusual. Banerjee, 40, is an Army sergeant who is now in Fallujah, Iraq.

Banerjee, also a veteran of the first Gulf War, uses his brother's house in Centerville as a permanent address even though he has lived around the world, said his brother, Dr. Partha Banerjee.

"He would laugh it off," Banerjee said. "He would say, 'I never get picked for anything nice why can't they give me a car or something?'"

Republicans withdrew all 2,319 challenges in Montgomery County, including the one against Banerjee, after acknowledging several mistakes in its mailing.

In suburban Franklin County, the registration of Raven Shaffer

was wrongly challenged because he was mailed at a post office box, according to the federal lawsuit filed Tuesday by Democrats. The "family's mailbox has been repeatedly hit by delivery trucks," the lawsuit said.

Also in Franklin County, 291 homeless people are being questioned out of the 2,370 total challenges, according to an analysis of the challenges by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. In Cuyahoga County, 757 people of the 17,717 total being challenged are homeless.

Mary Sullivan, 57, looked for work for a year after losing her job as a receptionist and prescription filler for a local drug maker in August 2003. She was evicted from her apartment after her money ran out this past June and spent two months at Friends of the Homeless, a shelter on Columbus' east side. "My vote has to be counted," Sullivan said. "Just because you're homeless doesn't mean you're stupid."

Early ballots becoming popular with U.S. voters

BY NANCY BENAC

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are casting early ballots in droves this year, and their reasons are as varied as their politics: Some can't wait to register their opinions. Some like the convenience.

Some just want to be left alone. In New Jersey's Somerset County, elections administrator Janice Hoffman says she's seeing more people make the extra effort to personally walk their ballots in.

"No dangling chads on mine!" a satisfied Barry Burke pronounced after voting electronically this week in Little Rock, Ark.

Whatever the voters' motivations, Democrats and Republicans alike are tracking their opinion-balling day by day and county by county, hoping to turn the early voting trend to their advantage.

"There's a basic rule here: More is better," said Charlie Baker, captain of the Democrats' early vote operation. "We are seeing, in a number of states, significantly higher vote-by-mail and early voting numbers than historically has been the case and that has to be a good thing for the Democrats."

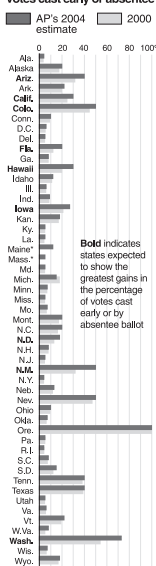
Republicans, for their part, claim their four-year-long early vote operation has been more effective at targeting sympathetic voters who might be less likely to turn out on Election Day. "What you're often seeing with the Democrats is simply the substitution of an absentee or early vote for an Election Day vote," said Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman.

With 32 states now offering some form of early voting, an AP-Ipsos poll taken last weekend found 11 percent of voters across the United States already had cast ballots, and another 11 percent intended to beat the Election Day rush as well. Early voting is

ELECTION 2004 Getting out the vote

This year, more voters are expected to cast their ballots early or use absentee forms than in the 2000 presidential election.

Percentage of each state's votes cast early or absentee



* 2000 percentage not available for Maine and Massachusetts; all voting is done by mail in Oregon

particularly popular in the West, with half or more of all votes likely to be cast early in states such as Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington.



The moon, seen in four different photographs, is partially covered by the Earth's shadow during Wednesday's lunar eclipse in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The four photographs were taken from (left) at 10:21 p.m., 10:30 p.m., 10:56 p.m. and 11:28 p.m., Buenos Aires time. The next such eclipse will be in March 2007.

Earthlings savor eclipse

BY SARAH BRUMFIELD

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Earth's last total lunar eclipse for nearly two and a half years didn't disappear.

Baltimore resident Davis Sherman visited the Maryland Science Center with his 15-year-old son for the event, which began Wednesday about 9:15 p.m. EDT and was expected to last around three hours and 20 minutes.

"It's a spectacular show," Sherman said.

Tony and Carline Cazeau of Columbia brought their two daughters, Gabrielle, 12, and Valerie, 8, to the science center for the educational experience.

"It looks like chocolate," Valerie said.

With the Earth passing directly between the sun and the moon, the only light hitting the full moon was from the planet's sunrises and sunsets, resulting in an orange and red hue. Visitors at the science center's Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory peered at the moon through its telescope.

Jim O'Leary, senior director of technology, IMAX, at the Science Center's Davis Planetarium, said there are usually two or three lunar eclipses a year, but there won't be any in 2005 or 2006.

"This one is a particularly long one," he said.

Inside the science center, Baltimore Astronomical Society President Darryl Mason projected the images from a powerful telescope

onto a screen for passers-by to see. He said he hopes the eclipse helps introduce more young people to astronomy.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, total lunar eclipses give scientists a chance to assess the quality of Earth's atmosphere. Ash from volcanic eruptions, for example, can make an eclipsed moon look much darker. The recent eruptions of Mount St. Helens in Washington were not expected to affect the eclipse because they consisted of far more steam than ash.

The last total lunar eclipse was May 4, but it wasn't visible from North America, NASA said.

The next total eclipse of the moon will not be until March 2007.

Dwarf woman's skeleton could alter history of human evolution

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA

The Associated Press

In an astonishing discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution, scientists say they have found the skeleton of a new human species, a dwarf, marooned for eons in a tropical Lost World while modern man rapidly colonized the rest of the planet.

The finding on a remote Indonesian island has stunned anthropologists like no other in recent memory. It is a fundamentally new creature that bears more of a resemblance to fictional, barefooted hobbits than modern humans.

Yet biologically speaking, it may have been closely related to us, and perhaps even shared its caves with our ancestors.

The 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton found in a cave is believed 18,000 years old. It smashes the long-cherished scientific belief that our species, *Homo sapiens*, systematically crowded out other upright-walking human cousins beginning 160,000 years ago and that we've had Earth to ourselves for tens of thousands of years.

Instead, it suggests recent evolution was more complex than previously thought.

And it demonstrates that Africa, the acknowledged cradle of humanity, does not hold all the answers to persistent questions of how — and where — we came to be.



Professor Richard Roberts points Thursday to an artist impression of a hobbit-like dwarf, a discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution in Sydney, Australia. A 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton, found on a remote Indonesian island, is believed 18,000 years old.

"This finding really does rewrite our knowledge of human evolution," said Chris Stringer, who directs human origins studies at the Natural History Museum in London. "And to have them present less than 20,000 years ago is frankly astonishing."

Scientists called the dwarf skeleton "the most extreme" figure to be included in the extended human family. Certainly, she is the shortest.

She is the best example of a trove of fragmented bones that account for as many as seven of

these primitive individuals that lived on the equatorial island of Flores, located east of Java and northwest of Australia. The mostly intact female skeleton was found in September 2003.

Scientists have named the extinct species *Homo floresiensis*, or Flores Man, and details appear in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

The specimens' ages range from 95,000 to 12,000 years old, meaning they lived until the threshold of recorded human history and perhaps crossed paths with the ancestors of today's islanders.

Louisville Slugger Museum auctioning Hall of Famers' bats, artifacts of baseball

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Louisville Slugger Museum is having a rummage sale.

A Hilt of Fame-caliber collection of bats, balls, photos and other items will be up for bidding at a public auction at the museum Nov. 6. Many of the items were dredged from a warehouse and file cabinets in the basement of the Hiltich & Bradsby Co.'s downtown museum and factory, where the trademark bats are still manufactured.

"It's monumentally significant," said David Hunt, president of Hunt Auctions, the firm selected by Louisville Slugger to organize the event. "It's not just the desirability of the items or the rarity, but for them to come straight out of Hiltich & Bradsby's archives, that makes the collection almost unequaled."

Marquee items include Louisville Sluggers handled by "Sholess" Joe Jackson, Ty Cobb, Jim Thorpe and Babe Ruth. The collection also includes a ball signed by both Ruth and Lou Gehrig, a Cleveland Indians jersey worn by Satchel Paige and a letter handwritten by Ruth with six of his signatures at the bottom.

"There are things so unique in this auction that have never been publicly sold," said David Bushing, a bat expert and authenticator. "It's going to be quite an event for collectors."

The proceeds from the auction will create a fund the museum will use to obtain other baseball artifacts, said Anne Jewell, the museum's executive director. The museum's wish list includes a complete set of bats from every slug club in the 500-year run club.

"It just makes sense for us to trade things, like you do baseball cards," Jewell said. "In a trade, if there's something you're lacking, you look at what you have that someone else might be interested in and that helps you acquire new things."

"We look at our collection and we know there are some holes in it. We need to stay fresh and vital."

The Jackson bat figures to be the auction's highlight. Cracked on the handle and worn on the

barrel, the bat has Jackson's signatures along the hitting area in bold ink. Bushing said the item will likely draw a price "deep in the six figures."

The bat was acquired from the estate of Syd Smith, a Jackson teammate and close friend. Bushing said there's no proof Jackson actually used the bat, but it is the only known one autographed by the enigmatic Jackson, who batted .356 from 1908 to 1920. Although acquired by a jury on charges he helped fix the 1919 World Series, Jackson was banned from baseball in 1921 by commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis and never made the Hall of Fame.

"I don't know if the Jackson bat is the star of the show, but it's definitely going to be in the top five," Bushing said. "The fact that it could've been used by Joe Jackson adds to the mystique."

If there was proof it was Joe Jackson's game bat — one that he used in games — with his autograph on it, we'd be talking about millions of dollars.

The Thorpe bat still has a ring of black handle tape, ball marks on the barrel and two small cobblers' nails hammered into the end.

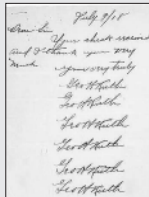
Thorpe believed the nails would strengthen the bat and had them inserted at a shoe store in Ohio.

Thorpe was stripped of the two gold medals he won at the 1912 Olympics because he had signed a semi-pro contract before the games. He signed with the New York Giants in 1913 and played in the majors for six seasons. The Yankees traded him between 1917 and 1920.

The gem of the museum's contributions is a bat used by Cobb, circa 1911-15, with grease-pencil markings made on the side. The markings were not made by Cobb, but by Henry Morrow, Hiltich & Bradsby's receiving agent in Cobb's era.

When a player returned a bat to the factory, Morrow wrote the date, the player's name and the city or team where the bat originated. Bushing said the markings increase the bat's value, which he guessed at between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

"Side-writing in the world of bat collecting is as good as a letter of authenticity," Bushing said.



HUNT AUCTIONS/AP

A handwritten letter by

George H. "Babe" Ruth,

shown in this autographed photo,

is one of the items to

be auctioned off Nov. 6 at the

Louisville Slugger Museum in

Kentucky. The letter, dated

July 9, 1918, was sent to

Frank Bradsby of the

Louisville Slugger company

and includes six genuine Ruth

signatures at the bottom for

use on baseball bats.

OPINION

The 'real job' is keeping Heinz Kerry quiet

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

In the spirit of the Kerry campaign official who declared Vice President Cheney's lesbian daughter "fair game," let us turn to the question of whether John Kerry's wife is fit to be first lady.

The issue is "fair game" because of how Teresa Heinz Kerry is behaving. Already wildly unpopular — her approval rating is an anemic 30 percent — she did the political equivalent of mooning her neighbors last week by insulting first lady Laura Bush. Said Heinz Kerry in an interview: "I don't know that she's ever had a real job — I mean, since she's been grown up."

The incident, including a quick apology for forgetting Bush was a teacher, librarian and full-time mother, was a one-day wonder because Laura Bush brushed it off. But it was not an isolated event. It fit a pattern Heinz Kerry established with a series of breezy putdowns and oddball rants.

There was the blast at the "scumbags" who criticize her, the claim that "only an idiot" wouldn't like her husband's health care plan and her goofy suggestion that Caribbean hurricane victims "go naked for a while" until food was delivered.

My favorite came on her recent visit to Nevada to discuss health care. The 40-minute speech, per her usual rambling, it's all-about-me style, included her remedy for arthritis: "You get some gin and get some white raisins — and only white raisins — and soak them in the gin for two weeks. Then eat nine of the raisins a day."

Got it — not eight raisins, not 10 raisins,

nine.

She's a fan of Botox, Armani and Chanel, calls herself "cheeky" and "sexy," but Kerry aids have heart palpitations every time she opens her mouth. Even some New York backers are concerned.

"We could have a bona fide head case as first lady," said a supporter.

"She's weird," says another. "She looks like she's on Prozac or something." Radio man Don Imus, as usual, said what others can't. A Kerry supporter, Imus wondered whether Teresa is "too crazy to be first lady."

I've been wondering myself. After watching her on several occasions and after following her antics on the trail, I've concluded she's not crazy. She's a rich, spoiled brat.

And because she's so rich — a billionaire, with five houses, a private jet and income of perhaps \$50 million a year — she is used to being feared by the help and flattered by supplicants who hope she'll sprinkle a few pennies their way. The recipient of much bowing and scraping naturally begins to feel wise, even superior.

Arrogance is thus born.

Arrogance is what former Texas Gov. Ann Richards spotted in a privileged George H.W. Bush. The former president, Richards said, woke up on third base and thought he'd hit a triple.

But Heinz Kerry's arrogance is different. Worldly and intelligent, she exhibits a presumptuousness that recalls 19th-century robber barons who believed their wealth proved they were divinely blessed, and that the poor, too, got what they deserved.



Speeches she's given, including at the party's Boston convention, were mostly about her, as if her life is inspiring. She has a habit of lecturing, skips from topic to topic and tends to speak quietly, so you'll just have to listen harder.

Not to worry — there's not much to hear. Her story, stripped of hyperbole, comes to this: She was the child of privilege, and now she is the adult of privilege. Her doctor father was rich and so was her first, late husband. All her money is

inherited.

After her marriage in 1966 to John Heinz, heir to the ketchup fortune, she quit her job as a translator and settled into the pampered world of the super-rich.

So she hasn't had a real job for 40 years.

Oh, yes, she does give away Heinz money. She calls herself a philanthropist. Not exactly a job ordinary Americans can relate to. Or a first lady.

On balance, Kerry's military philosophy more fair

BY JOHN B. QUIGLEY

COLUMBUS, Ohio
On defense policy, John Kerry doesn't have to do much to look better than President Bush.

Our current president surrounded himself with ideologues committed to controlling the world. He blurred the line between keeping the country safe and promoting corporations that profit from the resources of other countries.

Backed by this crew, dubbed the "neo-cons," Bush espoused a new and dangerous doctrine of attacking other countries well in advance of an actual attack on the U.S. The invasion of Iraq on phony information shows how easily this doctrine can be manipulated.

John Kerry, as a senator, has generally voted for defense spending.

But he says he will use military force only when it is seriously necessary to protect the country. He voted to authorize Bush to invade Iraq but criticizes Bush for misusing intelligence information and failing to gain the support of key allies.

President Bush now tries to justify his invasion of Iraq by saying that he is successfully fighting terrorism by taking the war to the place where terrorists are. Kerry, more plausibly, says that terrorism in Iraq has been generated by our occupation.

Despite President Bush's focus on terrorism as a defense priority, he is still fighting the Cold War. His multimillion-dollar program to build a missile defense system, both on the ground and in space, is aimed at a threat from Russia that probably does not exist. Whether the missile defense system would even stop incoming missiles is an open question.

Kerry, as a senator, has voted funding for missile defense but does not view it as the priority that Bush does.

"We cannot afford to spend billions," he said on the stump, "to deploy an unproven missile-defense system. Not only is it not ready, but it's the wrong priority for a war on terror where the enemy strikes with a bomb in the back of a truck, or a vial of anthrax in a briefcase."

The Iraq invasion has made the United States less safe. By bringing the United States into disrepute, especially in the Middle East, President Bush has left us more vulnerable to attack. More people are willing now to give up their own lives to attack U.S. targets. Beyond this circle of activists stand millions who support them morally and financially.

Simply by avoiding the belligerence that characterizes Bush, Kerry can reduce anti-U.S. hatred and thus the risk of attacks.

Kerry has made a point of saying that he will try to reduce anti-U.S. hatred. However, Kerry will have to avoid Bush's strong tilt in favor of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if he wants to improve the U.S. image in the Middle East. To date, Kerry has given little indication he would do anything different from Bush on Israel-Palestine.

One issue that generates anti-U.S. resentment on which Kerry might do better than Bush is abuse of prisoners by our troops. President Bush whitewashed the atrocities at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad as the acts of a few "bad apples" among our troops. Bush ignored internal memoranda

that prove that the signal to torture came from the top of our defense establishment.

Bush has a record, from his Vietnam days, of opposing atrocities. He is a better bet than Bush to deal appropriately with a situation like Abu Ghraib.

As to the welfare of our troops, Kerry is attuned to the hardships that military action brings to service personnel and their families.

Bush calls them heroes but does little to ease their burdens.

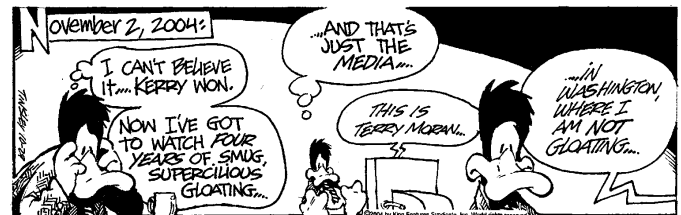
Both candidates say they would not institute a military draft, but Kerry's promise is more credible, since he would be less likely to commit troops to unnecessary wars.

Bush's sorry record on defense wasn't the result of a plan to make an opponent look good. But it does.

John B. Quigley is a professor of law at Ohio State University.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with afternoon rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s to the lower 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with dense fog in the morning and evening rain showers to the north. Highs in the upper 60s to the lower 70s, Saturday lows in upper 40s to lower 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with evening rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low to mid 70s, Saturday lows in the lower 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s to mid 80s, Saturday lows in the lower 50s to mid 60s.



AFRICA

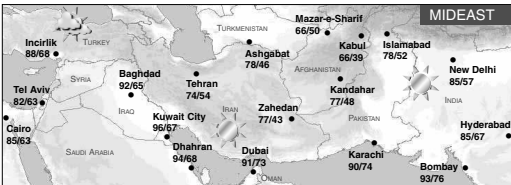
Cape Town	HI 80	LO 56	Mogadishu	HI 76	LO 52
Dakar	HI 86	LO 68	Nairobi	HI 82	LO 58
Freetown	HI 88	LO 75	Rabat	HI 83	LO 64
Antananarivo	HI 86	LO 71			

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI 58	LO 44	Manila	HI 89	LO 76
Buenos Aires	HI 67	LO 43	Mexico City	HI 74	LO 51
Beijing	HI 67	LO 43	Montreal	HI 47	LO 39
Bombay	HI 88	LO 68	Riyadh	HI 83	LO 64
Bermuda	HI 78	LO 67	Rio de Janeiro	HI 77	LO 68
Caracas	HI 89	LO 77	Sao Paulo	HI 87	LO 65
Helsinki	HI 59	LO 29	Sofia	HI 66	LO 45
Hong Kong	HI 83	LO 72	Sydney	HI 69	LO 54
London	HI 63	LO 55	Tokyo	HI 66	LO 57

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albany, Tex.	HI 86	LO 64	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52
Albuquerque	HI 80	LO 58	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52	Colorado Springs	HI 70	LO 52



MIDEAST

Cairo	HI 85	LO 63	Baghdad	HI 82	LO 65
Tehran	HI 74	LO 54	Kuwait City	HI 96	LO 75
Dhahran	HI 94	LO 68	Dubai	HI 91	LO 73
Zahedan	HI 77	LO 43	Kandahar	HI 77	LO 48
Kabul	HI 66	LO 39	Islamabad	HI 78	LO 52
New Delhi	HI 85	LO 57	Hyderabad	HI 85	LO 67
Bombay	HI 93	LO 75			

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://www.sembach.af.mil> or <https://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

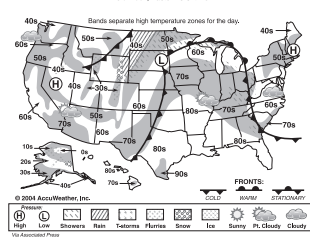
SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:18am	Tomorrow	7:20am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:11am	Tomorrow	8:13am
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:14pm	Tomorrow	6:15pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:07pm	Tomorrow	6:06pm

New moon	Nov 12	First cr.	Nov 19	Full moon	Nov 27	Last cr.	Nov 5
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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your HomeTown Newspaper

Not-so-public access

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Government officials routinely broke or skirted Indiana's open records law, which makes public records available to anyone, a review by eight newspapers found.

Reporters presenting themselves as citizens visited government offices in all 92 counties to see how readily officials turned over such records.

Results were better than a similar audit seven years ago, and some journalists obtained public records easily. But others were intimidated, questioned repeatedly, put off for days or mistakenly told they needed a court order or subpoena.

Rush County Sheriff Jim Owens threatened to jail a reporter if he continued to "intimidate my staff," the review found.

Reporters and editors in August tried to obtain 368 public records from crime logs and reports, public employee salaries and court files of sex offenders. Only 11 counties granted all four documents within 24 hours.

Who's in charge?

DC WASHINGTON — More than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, local officials in the nation's capital do not know what might lead the federal government to take control of public safety efforts in a future emergency.

"It's been unclear since 9/11 and we've been talking about it since then," District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams said.

Williams was among officials who testified at a D.C. Council Judiciary Committee hearing into command and other jurisdictional issues stemming from the district's huge federal presence.

With more than 1,250 federal offices buildings and 175 foreign diplomatic missions located in the district and its nearby suburbs, several local jurisdictions could have their response plans subordinated to federal control.

"There has got to be a level of understanding about who's in charge," said Richard Ben-Veniste, a former member of the 9/11 Commission.

The panel, established by Congress and named by President Bush, was charged with examining the terrorist attacks and making recommendations to Congress.

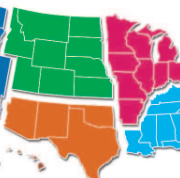
Return of Ms. Subways

NY NEW YORK — Miss, er, Ms. Subways rides again.

For the first time in 28 years, New York City's 220-mile underground rail network has a human face, that of Caroline Sanchez-Bernat. The 29-year-old actress edged out three other contenders for the title of Ms. Subways, a promotion revived for the transit system's centennial celebration this week.

Sanchez-Bernat was crowned Ms. er, Miss America-style with a tiara and sash at Ellen's Stardust Dinner, owned by Ellen Hart Strum, a 1959 Miss Subways.

The new winner's photo will be posted in the subway, just as were those of the 300-plus women who



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

held the title between 1941 and 1976.

Chemical weapons charge

TN JACKSON — A man who authorities say hated the federal government was charged with attempting to acquire chemical weapons, explosives and weapons of mass destruction with the intent to attack official buildings.

Demetrius "Van" Crocker, 39, was characterized by U.S. Attorney Terrell Harris as having "hated for the government, and anti-Semitic and racist views." Crocker is accused of attempting to obtain sarin nerve gas and C-4 explosives, according to a federal complaint filed.

Crocker was arrested Monday after an undercover federal agent met him to deliver fake explosives and what Crocker believed were ingredients for sarin, considered one of the world's deadliest chemical agents.

New deer hunting gun

WI DEERBROOK — A deer hunter in Wisconsin is marketing a new type of chewing gum he claims can mask human-smelling breath and help hunters move closer to their prey.

Neil Brett says his Gum-o-Flage

helps fool the animals' hypersensitive noses to human scent.

Hunters already can use special soap, shampoo and clothing detergent to eliminate human smell. Some even pay \$300 for scent-control coveralls.

Now, for \$4.99, hunters can get 12 olive green, Chicle-style tablets in a blister pack.

The idea came seven years ago when Brett, a gun hunter since boyhood, began going after deer with a bow and arrow. That meant hunting at closer range, and Brett took precautions to eliminate his human odor, including wearing carbon-lined clothing that was kept sealed in plastic bins with pine boughs.

Deer still picked up his scent. He turned to his brother and then-dental student Nicholas, who suggested the problem might be his breath.

Murder-suicide probed

MA LOWELL — A Dracut husband allegedly shot and killed a man and seriously wounded his estranged wife before he committed suicide, investigators said.

Barry Strykowski, 48, apparently told the Lowell home of his estranged wife, Diana Strykowski, shot her once, and shot her companion, Jaroslav Stepanec, several times, according to the Middlesex district attorney's office.

Investigators are treating the incident as a murder-suicide.

Strykowski was pronounced dead at the scene. He had a gunshot wound to the head.

Diana Strykowski, 44, was being treated at Boston Medical Center. She is expected to survive, authorities said.

Stepanec, 51, was pronounced dead at Saints Memorial Medical Center in Lowell shortly after police arrived at the home, responding to a report of a possible fight.

Drive for five to vote

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The Southwest Voter Registration Project has cooked up a good idea to drive young Hispanic and American Indian voters to the polls this Election Day.

Get five people to vote, win a shot at a car.

"We're not rewarding voters, we're rewarding volunteers who get voters to the polls with a chance to win. So far, it seems to be getting attention," Southwest Voter president Antonio Gonzalez said of the "Take 5 and Drive" giveaway.

The contest — sponsored by Southwest Voter in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Nevada — gives volunteers who take five friends or family members to the polls a chance to win a 2005 Ford Mustang.

An estimated 20,000 brochures in New Mexico were sent out advertising the giveaway, and the contest Web site already had more than 20,000 hits.

Gonzalez said the names of voters submitted in the contest will be confirmed after the election by checking voter logs and making phone calls. Both political parties aren't complaining.



Moon over Massachusetts

Mount Holyoke in Hadley, Mass.

The moon rises above the Summit House atop



Frozen jack-o'-lantern

Some Halloween decorations in Truckee, Calif., are shown with a coating of snow. A powerful Alaskan storm swept across California this week, flooding homes in San Francisco, cutting power to thousands and leading to a record-breaking snowfall in the Sierra.



Fall foliage

church in East Bridgewater, Mass.

The orange leaves of a maple tree stand out against the white clapboard steeple of a

Hanging on

Ripe tomatoes are seen in a field in Camarillo, Calif. The winterlike storm that drenched California fields last week hurt the tomato harvest and contributed to a mounting national shortage that has doubled prices at many stores.



Overdue visit The USS Constellation shoots confetti as it departs the Baltimore harbor for a visit to the U.S. Naval Academy. The historic voyage marks the first time the USS Constellation has traveled beyond the Key Bridge since arriving in Baltimore in 1955 and her first return to the Naval Academy in more than 110 years.



Hose down Bristol firefighters battle a house fire at 48 Oakland Street in Bristol, Conn.



Stylish pups Cody, a terrier, left, and Casey, a shitzu, model outfits by E&E Halstrom Haute Couture, a high-end clothing company for dogs in Hartsdale, N.Y.



Still on the line Pacific Gas & Electric workers spend time working on the power lines in Bakersfield, Calif., as the clouds started to move in before a rain storm hit.

Actor arrested in beating

NY SOUTHAMPTON — An actor playing a stressed-out soldier in a local stage production was arrested after he punched his leading lady in the face and then beat up the director backstage just before a scheduled performance, police said.

Witnesses told police that Brian Raber, 27, appeared to be playing his character when he began to hit the 17-year-old actress, who was hospitalized in serious but stable condition.

Raber was ordered held on \$100,000 bail at his arraignment on two counts of assault in the attacks at the theater on Long Island. He has pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses told police that Raber, who had starred for several weeks in "Home Front," about a soldier coming home from war, punched Bianca Massi for no apparent reason at the Historical Society Playhouse.

Police said the director, Toni Munna, 51, was beaten when she stepped in to help Massi, who suffered a fractured cheek and eye socket. Munna was treated for facial bruises.

Catholic Charities CEO

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Catholic Charities USA named the Rev. Larry Snyder, executive director of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, as the national organization's next president and chief executive officer.

"I feel extremely gratified to have been tapped for this position, especially for such an accomplished and highly esteemed organization," Snyder said in a statement. Snyder will start the new job Feb. 1.

Snyder will replace the Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, who served as president of the group from September 2001 until December 2003, when he returned to Boston for a job in the archdiocese there.

Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Va., is a national network of more than 1,400 Catholic Charities agencies.

Train derail

MI DETROIT — A train carrying a flammable liquid derailed in a residential neighborhood, and hundreds of people were evacuated along with three schools, officials said. There were no reports of injuries or illness.

Nine of the CN freight train's cars left the tracks and some overturned, authorities said.

Four of the nine derailed tank cars contained methanol, which is used as an antifreeze and is flammable. Some liquid reportedly leaked from the train, but fire officials described the leak as minimal.

CN spokeswoman Gloria Combe said the leak was quickly contained. The cause had not been determined.

About 1,500 students were evacuated from three schools. By late Monday, all evacuated residents were allowed back in their homes, Combe said.

Students succeeding

SC WEST COLUMBIA — More than three-fourths of high school sophomores passed the South Carolina's new and more rigorous exit exam on their first

try. Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum announced the results for 47,338 students who took the tests this past spring, measuring skills in English, reading and math. The old exam was based on an eighth-grade level of education.

Bat study funded

TN KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee has received nearly \$4 million to study bats.

The National Science Foundation grant will enable scientists to conduct two studies, one on the benefits bats have on agriculture and the other on rabies in bats in the wild.

Seal deaths puzzling

ME PORTLAND — Scientists investigating high mortality rates of seals say no fast answer has emerged.

Reports of stranded seals have slowed to normal rates in recent weeks, but researchers continue to search for clues about what happened to the harbor seals last summer in Maine.

"We're peeling the onion, but we're still finding more layers," said Greg Early, a Massachusetts researcher and one of the leaders of the federal team investigating Maine's seal deaths.

The mystery began in July with a surge of calls to the Northeast Marine Animal Lifeline. The Westbrook-based network rescues sick or injured seals, tests and examines them and nurses the animals back to health. The calls continued at an unprecedented pace through August, says Greg Jakush, founder of the lifeline.

"We're at case 766 right now for the year," Jakush said. "Our average is 350 to 375 per year."

Electronics recycle, too

DC WASHINGTON — The city's public works department staged a semiannual electronics recycling event in Rock Creek Park.

Residents of the district, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland brought obsolete computers, televisions and stereo equipment. The event was aimed at preventing the items from being discarded with regular solid waste and sent to landfills.

Plans for city park

NY NEW YORK — Union Square Park, which has undergone a series of renovations recently after suffering years of neglect, will undergo more improvements starting next autumn, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The \$14 million redesign, which will focus on the north side of the 165-year-old park, will expand the park's two existing playgrounds into a single playground; introduce a year-round restaurant to replace a seasonal outdoor restaurant; and refurbish the plaza that holds the Union Square farmer's market.

The farmers market will remain open during construction. The project will be the final phase of the reconstruction of the park. The southern portion of the park was rebuilt in 1986, and the southwest portion was renovated in 2002.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRT's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie ***: "The Boys of St. Vincent" (1989, Drama) (Part 2 of 2) Henry Czerny.	Dr. Phil	The Mummy Underworld	Nightline	Sports	30 Minute Meals	The Family OddParents
9:30 Super-Siamme Cat		Dr. Phil	The Brothers Garcia	Nightly Business Report		Easy Entertaining-Chanelle	The Family OddParents
10:00 Arthur Sollar moves away.		Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	Jeopardy!
10:30 Between the Lions (E)	(4/5) Movie ***: "The Apartment" (1996, Drama) Vincent Cassel, Romane Bohringer. A love story finds a fairy importer in an ex-lover's fall.	Guiding Light	Headline News			The Look for Less	Headline News
11:00 Super-Siamme Cat		General Hospital	ESPNews	Primetime Thursday		El News Live	ESPNews
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Special Report
12:30 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	King of the Hill			That '70s Show	King of the Hill
12:30 The Wiggles 'Work'		Judge Judy	That '70s Show			Girlfriends	That '70s Show
13:00 Bob the Builder	(5/2) Movie ***: "Mother" (1996, Comedy) Albert Brooks. A man moves in with his mother for a stab at self-analysis.	Today A Hallown extravaganza, a haunted hotel.	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	NFL Total Access	Charmed "The Demon Who Came From the Cold"	The Apprentice
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Baby Looney Tunes (E)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Headline News		Any Day Now	Pacific Report
14:00 Blue's Clues "Meet"		Rocio's Modern Life	The Tonight Show	Channel One	Sports	Aly McBeal "Civil War"	The Tonight Show
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		The Family OddParents	The Early Show	The Early Show	Baseball Tonight	ER "Sailing Away"	The Tonight Show
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(2/58) Movie ***: "Murphy's Romance" (1985, Comedy). Sally Field, James Garner, Brian Kerwin.	The Brothers Garcia	Late Show		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Mad Dog"	Late Show
15:30 Fall House		Headline News	Access Hollywood			Inside the NFL	Access Hollywood
16:00 Pokemon		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		The Simpsons	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh		Headline News	The Late Late Show	FOX News		Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
17:00 Hey Arnold!	True Hollywood Story	Headline News	Jeopardy!	PrimeTime Thursday	Sports	Charmed "Witchstock"	Dennis Miller
17:30 Rocket Power	Hollywood Backstories	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Boston Public Chapter Thirty-Two	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	Inside Politics		Arctic Mission "People of the Ice"	Arctic Mission
18:30 Rugrats	Movie ***: "Evil Dead 2" (1987, Horror) Bruce Campbell, Sarah Berry, Dan Aykroyd.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Friends	Today A Hallown extravaganza, a haunted hotel.
19:00 ChalkZone		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		The Hot List	The Daily Show
19:30 The Weekenders (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Around the Horn	Baseball Tonight
20:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Portland the Interruption	Baseball Tonight
20:30 All That	(3/5) Movie ***: "Army of Darkness" (1992, Horror) Bruce Campbell, Embeth Davidtz, Marcus Gilbert.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Late Night	JoJo's Circus
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Charmed "Witchstock"	ChalkZone
21:30 Switched		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Boston Public Chapter Thirty-Two	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe	(1/6) Movie ***: "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Arctic Mission "People of the Ice"	All That
23:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Friends	Sports
23:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Seinfeld	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Breathingspace Yoga	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Caribbean Workout	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Body Shaping	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Every Woman	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Beautiful Homes-Estates	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Circo Apparel	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Underdog Challenge	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Weekend Warriors	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Clean House	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		BBC With Bobby Flay	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Hollywood Heroes	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Intimate Portrait "Swoosie Kurtz"	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Antiques Roadshow "Kansas City, Missouri" (Part 3 of 3)	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Star Trek: Voyager "Emancipations"	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Ripley's Believe It or Not	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Fear Factor	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Trading Spaces Bedroom Make-overs	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Crossing Jordan "Most Likely"	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		1400-Missing "Insomnia"	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Seinfeld "The Face Painter"	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		The Real World	Headline News
		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Punk'd	Headline News

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2004

00:00 Hey Arnold! Cheese Festival	(10/16) Movie ***: "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer.	(11:30) Late Show	Zoboomafo "Pete" (E)	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	JoJo's Circus
00:30 Rocket Power		Access Hollywood	ChalkZone	Headline News		Charmed "Witchstock"	ChalkZone
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		Sports	ChalkZone	Headline News		Boston Public Chapter Thirty-Two	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
1:30 Rugrats	(1/6) Movie ***: "Hell to Go Heroes" (1982, Drama) Steve McQueen, Bobby Dime.		Powerplay Girlz	Headline News		Arctic Mission "People of the Ice"	All That
2:00 ChalkZone			Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Headline News		Friends	Sports
2:30 The Weekenders (E)			All That	Headline News		Seinfeld	Headline News
3:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius			Sports	Headline News		Breathingspace Yoga	Headline News
3:30 All That			Hannity & Colmes	Headline News		Caribbean Workout	Headline News
4:00 Lizzie McGuire			The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Headline News		Body Shaping	Headline News
4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Lou Dobbs Tonight	Headline News		Every Woman	Headline News
5:00 Sesame Street (E)			Larry King Live	Headline News		Beautiful Homes-Estates	Headline News
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Newsnight With Aaron Brown	Headline News		Circo Apparel	Headline News
6:00 Blue's Clues (E)			WWE Raw	Headline News		Underdog Challenge	Headline News
7:00 Planet's Funniest Animals			Headline News	Headline News		Weekend Warriors	Headline News
7:30 Amazing Animal Videos			Headline News	Headline News		Clean House	Headline News
8:00 Lilo & Stitch "Hic-jaw"			Headline News	Headline News		BBC With Bobby Flay	Headline News
8:30 Name Supreme (E)			Headline News	Headline News		Hollywood Heroes	Headline News
9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures			Headline News	Headline News		101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	Headline News
9:30 Kim Possible "Queen Bees"			Headline News	Headline News		Intimate Portrait "Swoosie Kurtz"	Headline News
10:00 Teen Titans "Identity Theft"			Headline News	Headline News		Antiques Roadshow "Kansas City, Missouri" (Part 3 of 3)	Headline News
10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles			Headline News	Headline News		Star Trek: Voyager "Emancipations"	Headline News
11:00 Dragonball GT			Headline News	Headline News		Ripley's Believe It or Not	Headline News
11:30 X-Men: Evolution			Headline News	Headline News		Fear Factor	Headline News
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)			Headline News	Headline News		Trading Spaces Bedroom Make-overs	Headline News
12:30 Tutenstein (E)			Headline News	Headline News		Crossing Jordan "Most Likely"	Headline News
13:00 Endurance (E)			Headline News	Headline News		1400-Missing "Insomnia"	Headline News
13:30 Scooby's Safari "Violator" (E)			Headline News	Headline News		Seinfeld "The Face Painter"	Headline News
14:00 Animal Kingdom			Headline News	Headline News		The Real World	Headline News
14:30 Most Extreme: Horrors			Headline News	Headline News		Punk'd	Headline News
15:30 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "The Warrior Princess"			Headline News	Headline News			
16:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "The Warrior Princess"			Headline News	Headline News			
16:30 Hey Arnold!			Headline News	Headline News			
17:00 Rocket Power			Headline News	Headline News			
17:30 SpongeBob SquarePants			Headline News	Headline News			
18:00 Bugs Bunny's Howl-O-Ween			Headline News	Headline News			
18:30 Scary Godmother Halloween Spookabuster			Headline News	Headline News			
19:00 What's New Scooby-Do?			Headline News	Headline News			
20:00 Movie ***: "Hocus Pocus" (1993, Comedy) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker.			Headline News	Headline News			
21:00 My So-Called Life "Halloween"			Headline News	Headline News			
22:00 The Simpsons			Headline News	Headline News			
22:30 The Simpsons			Headline News	Headline News			
23:00 The Simpsons			Headline News	Headline News			

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FACES

Pregnant Roberts visits hospital

A pregnant Julia Roberts was hospitalized after experiencing a series of early contractions, *People* magazine reported. The actress was accompanied by her husband,



Roberts

Danny Moder, when she was admitted to an undisclosed hospital. The contractions eventually stopped, but she remained under observation, *People* reported, citing unnamed sources.

Roberts' New York-based publicist, Marcy Englemann, declined to comment.

The 36-year-old movie star is expecting twins—a boy and a girl—in early January.

People said Roberts' condition wasn't serious, but that her doctors had advised bed rest until her due date.

Magazine rates Bush a villain

Readers of a British magazine have rated President Bush the year's top screen villain, for his appearance in Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Bush beat out a shortlist of fictional film bad guys, including the nefarious Doctor Octopus, played by Alfred Molina, in "Spider-Man 2"; cannibalistic Leatherface in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"; Andy Serkis' creepy Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy; and the eyepatch-wearing assassin played by Daryl Hannah in "Kill Bill: Vol. 2." Almost 10,000 people voted in the poll, conducted by Total Film magazine.

Latifah could have bared it all

Had things worked out differently, it might have been Queen Latifah in "Monster's Ball" instead of Halle Berry.

The rapper-singer-actress says she was slated to play the lead in the movie that netted Berry the Oscar for best actress in 2002.

Berry was the first black to ever win an Oscar in that category.

"I actually had that role before Halle. But they couldn't set it up. It would have been me, Penn and Robert De Niro," Latifah said. Instead, the low-budget drama starred Berry, Heath Ledger and Billy Bob Thornton.

Would Latifah have taken it all off for the role, as did Berry, for the movie's explicit sex scene?

"You wouldn't take that role without knowing what was there already," Latifah cautiously answered.



Queen Latifah

Kojak back — in slightly different form

Ving Rhames has signed with USA Network to a weekly series of "Kojak," debuting in March, Bonnie Hammer, president of USA Network, said Tuesday. Filming begins in Toronto in January.

Production wrapped in August on a two-hour original movie, which will now serve as the premiere episode.

Tej Savalas starred as the stylish, crime-dome Lt. Theo Kojak in the police drama, which aired from 1973-78.

King creates list of pet peeves

Stephen King has compiled his list of Pet Peeves of 2004, with "annoyance levels" that range from minor headache to head-splitting migraine.

King writes in his Entertainment Weekly column that although pop culture is full of pleasures, it also has its share of annoyances.

"For every petted, talented Elisha Cuthbert, there is a Paris Hilton (and her little dog, too)."

By exposing his own annoyances — "in all their triviality" — he hopes to encourage readers to speak of their own pet peeves, King writes in the magazine's Oct. 29 issue.

The list includes pop star Britney Spears, who rates a minor headache; real estate mogul and "The Apprentice" star Donald Trump, a moderate to severe headache (due to unavoidable cam-overs); and ads before theatrical movies, a head-splitting migraine.

Stories and photos from wire services



King



LATWIP

The Futureheads are a British band in the vintage art-punk vein. Their debut record will come out in the States on Oct. 26. Left to right in rear: Jeff Jaff, Barry Hyde, and Dave Hyde. In front with glasses is Ross Millard.

Futureheads rock onto the U.S. music scene

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times

The working-class city of Sunderland, England, is home to 50 bars, two strip clubs and zero movie theaters or rock venues, placing it exactly nowhere in the minds of most Americans, or Brits for that matter.

But that's likely to change thanks to a quartet of young lads known as the Futureheads, a group whose "nasty and abrasive" music, as one of the members describes it, is among the most innovative and exciting in the growing post-punk scene.

Never heard of them? No worries. If the world is a just place, they should be everywhere soon enough. The Futureheads make some of the smartest, most fun avant-pop around.

Judging from reactions at the group's first L.A. show at Spaceland last month, the Futureheads have nothing to worry about when it comes to finding an audience. First, the club was packed, even though the group's debut record had not washed up on American shores.

Second, more than a few folks in the ordinarily motionless, been-there, done-that crowd even danced. Danced! "The reaction was a little bit more than we expected," Ross Millard, the band's bookish-looking guitarist-vocalist, said the next day on the group's tour bus. "In cities that are famous for having a burgeoning music scene, you expect people to be a little more standoffish at gigs... but it was like playing a show back where we're from. It was the same atmosphere, and the crowd — there was an intimacy there. We could relax on stage."

"Relaxed" isn't the word that comes to mind when seeing the Futureheads perform. The group played with the wound-up intensity of a coiled spring, unleashing its manic energy through quick blasts of guitar that stopped on a dime and harmonized, cuckoo-clock vocals as each of the band's four members popped in and ducked out of songs for a word, phrase or stanza.

Just two songs in, their tight-fitting dress shirts already were showing sweat signs of their lightning-fast playing and high-energy performance. Forty-five minutes later, said shirts were in desperate need of a wringing.

If the set were any longer, you'd swear the group would pass out from fluid loss, but youth, there is stamina. And the group is young — made up of Millard, 22, and his "best mates" Jaff, 22 (bass), and brothers Barry and David Hyde, 23 and 19 (lead vocals/guitar and drums, respectively).

Friends before they came together as a band in 2000, the

group had met a couple of years earlier at the Sunderland City Detached Youth Project, a music program for at-risk youth in the down-and-out northeastern city that was once supported by coal mining and shipbuilding — industries that closed up shop long ago.

"Our horizons weren't particularly broad," said Millard, "but no one in the group fit the stereotypical profile of kids drinking on street corners or stealing cars; each was a musician with another band, simply taking advantage of the free practice space."

They got together as the Futureheads after their respective groups had split up. A few months of practice in Barry's garage yielded a handful of tunes and their first gig — four songs performed in seven minutes at the local cricket club. "Our horizons weren't particularly broad," said Millard, his British accent thick as clotted cream. "We just thought, 'Well, we'll get a couple of songs together and we'll play some shows in front of our friends,' and then you just gradually take it from there."

After a year of playing to the same hometown crowd of 15 at various bars and basements, they ventured to nearby Newcastle, where they played at the local university and opera house. Then came a tour of Europe and a string of "squat clubs" in Germany and the Netherlands.

Until that tour, David wasn't in the band; Peter Brewis was drummer. But when Brewis opted out of traveling, David took his place.

It was at that point that the band really jelled.

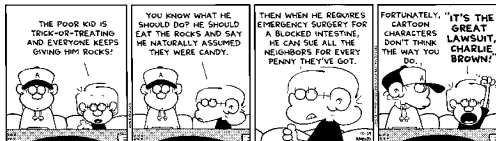
The group got back home and wrote and recorded their first four songs, including two songs that also appeared on their album debut, "Robot" and "Stupid and Shallow," among the record's standouts — their fast-paced, staccato harmonies and asymmetrical rhythms defining the group's sound, which teeters on the edge of art rock but ultimately lands in pop territory.

Performing songs off the single in London, the Futureheads were snapped up by Fantastic Plastic, an independent label that released two more singles by the group. Those singles went on to receive such rave reviews in the English media that the group was soon signed to an even bigger label, 679 Recordings — the British affiliate of Sire, which is releasing the band's debut this side of the Atlantic.

The group's stock continues to rise. The Futureheads just wrapped their first North American tour, opening for Scottish faves Franz Ferdinand. They'll play the Troubadour in Hollywood on Nov. 20 as part of their first U.S. headline tour.

In the meantime, they're just relaxing in Sunderland, where they plan to stay, even though shops close at 4 and, David says, "There's absolutely nothing to do but go out and eat and drink."

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



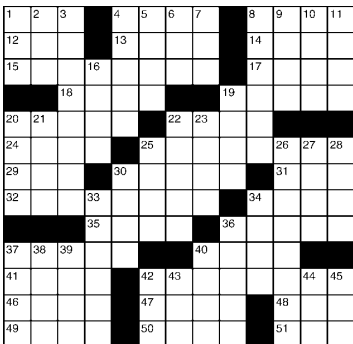
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Foundation
- 4 Some of the kin
- 8 Parks or Bonheur
- 12 "When We Were Kings" subject
- 13 Small combo
- 14 Without end
- 15 Vicinity
- 17 Tallow source
- 18 Earl Grey's family?
- 19 Crowbar
- 20 Baffle
- 22 Really eager
- 24 Arthur Maser's instrument
- 25 Its days are numbered
- 29 Scepter topper
- 30 Impressive setup
- 31 Stock-report abbr.
- 32 Callahan's portrayer
- 34 Attention getter
- 35 Kate Hudson's mom
- 36 Can't stand
- 37 Tale
- 40 Actress Spelling
- 41 Senate employee
- 42 A measure
- 46 Emancipation
- 47 Exam format
- 48 Demure
- 49 Undo a dele
- 50 Indiana city
- 51 Priquette pivot

Down

- 1 Evil
- 2 Yale student
- 3 Bother
- 4 Backpack part
- 5 Fleur-de-lis
- 6 Pen name?
- 7 Drunkard river
- 8 Quit
- 9 Egg
- 10 Appear
- 11 Bohemian
- 16 Office part-timer
- 19 Baby kangaroo
- 20 Old woman's home?
- 21 The O'Hara estate
- 22 "Hammerin' Hank"
- 23 Pleased
- 25 Boast
- 26 Clear
- 27 Basilica section
- 28 Deteriorates
- 30 On the road
- 33 Indication of doom
- 34 Brazilian
- 36 With passion
- 37 Resorts international?
- 38 Lacking slack
- 39 Monster
- 40 Despot
- 42 Pooh
- 43 401(k) alternative
- 44 Bill's partner
- 45 Keep tabs on

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-29

CRYPTOQUIP

HQ EVJ QJUUE OJAAVGB
SNVSVUTBR STFCE, H
OJAAVOR EVJ SVJUC OTE

EVJ*GR ZRNHFC ZTGO.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO FISHERMEN FRIENDS STARTED CHATTING BUT ENDED UP OPENING A BIG CAN OF WORMS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

Internet deviancy not acceptable

Dear Abby: I am 36 and "Vito," my significant other, is 44. I recently learned that he has been posing as a woman on a Internet swingers' site. He sends people naked photos of a girl — and once I found a picture of a naked man. (Not him.) One of his objectives is to recruit couples for a threesome, and I believe he is also doing cybersex. When I confronted Vito, he said it was just a joke. But it isn't the first time he has done this, and it is very hurtful. Abby, Vito is sneaky, passive-aggressive and an alcoholic. I have always believed if you had to hide something from your partner or spouse, it was cheating. Is cybersex cheating?

—Blondie in Daytona Beach
Dear Blondie: Yes, cybersex is cheating. When someone hides something from a spouse or partner, it's usually with the knowledge that the spouse or

partner would disapprove. Now, I have a question for you: *Why are you wasting your time with someone who sneaks around looking for other sex partners? Romances like yours don't have happy endings. Be smart. Get checked for STDs and call it quits with Vito.*

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: My younger brother, who is 53, recently lost his job. His wife has never worked. They have spent their life traveling, driving expensive cars and entertaining lavishly. They never saved a nickel.

I, on the other hand, have always lived frugally. My wife and I put our kids through college, we live in a modest home, drive older cars and have never vacationed outside the United States. We have saved diligently and plan early retirement in a year or two.

My mother and sister think we

should help my brother and his wife out by lending them money that we know will never be repaid. My brother has put me down for my thirty ways, saying I could be tomorrow, then what good would all that money be? Well, tomorrow is here. My wife and I are prepared for whatever life may deal us in the future. Mom and Sis are angry that we refuse to give money to my brother and his wife. They made their bed — now they can lie in it. Abby, please tell me if I'm right.

—Able But Unwilling in Alabama

Dear Able: Your philosophy of financial planning has paid off, while your brother is now paying dearly for failing to provide for his future. Far be it from me to raise Cain with your own decision, but if you felt comfortable, you wouldn't be asking me to endorse it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYKAH
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

URRYC
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

QUOMES
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

BLUEBB
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRAME CHESS VERBAL DIMINO
Answer: What the KING reduced when he sold the royal crowns — HIS "OVER HEAD"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A few tips for airline etiquette

Dear Annie: I am a huge fan of your column and would like to respond to "F/A in Toronto" the flight attendant who said a passenger clipped his nails while she served orange juice. I travel a lot. People seem to forget everyday courtesies the moment they walk through airport security. On a recent flight, the woman sitting next to me changed her baby's dirty diaper on the plane between us.

Please print these guidelines for our fellow travelers: 1. Don't be afraid to use the washrooms on the plane. Teeth flossing, nail clipping, make-up application, nasal sprays, tweezing and changing diapers should be done in private. We don't want to watch you.

2. By all means, remove your shoes, but please, keep your feet on the ground. No one wants to smell them.

3. Treat the people in the middle seat with respect. Don't grab

Annie's Mailbox



both armrests. 4. Be mindful that not everyone wants to be engaged in conversation. While you might be an interesting person, some of us prefer to work or sleep. 5. If you have children, please don't run up and down the aisle screaming. It's OK to tell your child to stop kicking the seats and making noise.

6. Please don't push when exiting the plane. This is aggravating and dangerous. And to the flight attendants: We know how hard you work, but please, when you see people doing inappropriate things, help us out. Thanks.

—Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ottawa: Thanks for your sensible suggestions. We hope they help.

Dear Annie: I was annoyed with the letter from "Had It with PC," who is delighted when

waitresses call him "Hon" and "Dear." He says we should lighten up.

My mother is 84 years old. All her nurses at the assisted-living home call her "Sweetie" and "Hon," even though they know her name.

It is condescending to treat a woman her age as though she were 3 years old and anonymous. I'm 55 and hate when women 20 and 30 years younger call me "Hon."

I notice these young women don't call each other by such names.

Whatever happened to "Sir" and "Ma'am" when addressing strangers of an older generation?

I Have a Name

Dear Name: Some people don't like those terms either, because it makes them feel old, but in my doubt, it's best to err on the side of politeness.

Dear Name: I was annoyed with the letter from "Had It with PC," who is delighted when

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate



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"Grandma said in her day the only things they pierced were their ears."

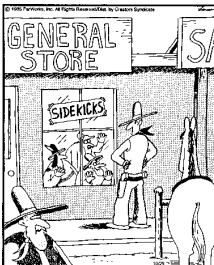


Demis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Air NASCAR

Hendrick tragedy shows risks inherent to racing aren't just at the track

By Mike Harris
The Associated Press

A fleet of private planes known as the "NASCAR Air Force" has made travel easier for drivers and teams. But Sunday's crash that killed 10 people flying to a race aboard a Hendrick Motorsports team plane showed such convenience also can involve risks.

"We use planes just like our cars," said Ricky Rudd, one of several NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers who are also pilots. "We put a lot of hours in the air and have some of the best pilots in the country that fly these things, and some of the best equipment."

The backbone of the NASCAR air fleet has been two-engine, 12-passenger aircraft like the Beech 200 King Air that crashed into the side of a mountain in thick fog Sunday while trying to land at a small airport near Martinsville Speedway in Virginia.

At least one aboard was killed, including team owner Rick Hendrick's son, Ricky; his brother, John, and John's two daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly. Also on the plane were the team's general manager, Jeff Turner, and its chief engine builder, Randy Dorton, as well as Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont. Scott Laubram, 38, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morrison.

For years, nearly everyone traveled back and forth to the races in team vans or private cars, but the proliferation of private planes has changed that.

Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport — the closest airport for most teams — is buzzing with activity. More than 100 aircraft — helicopters and airplanes — take off and land, ferrying drivers, team owners, crewmen, sponsors and fans to airports near the racetrack.

More aircraft, including a pair of 727 jets owned by Roush Racing, fly in and out of nearby Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

"Actually, it's not just race weekends," said Annette Privette, a spokeswoman for the city

Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport — the closest airport for most teams — is buzzing with activity.

of Concord. "Our airport has approximately 200 aircraft based there and about 60 percent of them are NASCAR-related. There's a lot of flying back and forth to testing and pole nights and driver appearances and races."

"It's convenient because the teams, obviously, want to spend as much time with their families

as possible." Petty Enterprises driver Jeff Green sees private plane travel as more than just a convenience.

"Taking the chance on being delayed in an airport just won't work," Green said. "You have to be there Friday morning for prac-

tice for your sponsors and your team — you just don't have much choice."

Mark Martin, another driver who is also a pilot, lost his father, stepmother and half sister in 1998 when a private plane his father was piloting crashed in Nevada.

But Martin said he has no qualms about continuing to use his plane.

"I suppose we've been pretty lucky in a way," Martin said in an interview last year. "But everybody knows that flying is still safer than driving in your personal car. And we really have no choice. We have to fly to get our jobs done."

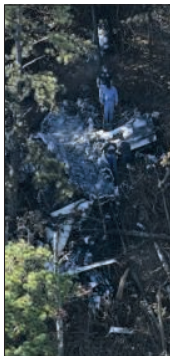
With the escalating use of helicopters — for short hauls — and private planes, NASCAR's Air Force has a very good safety record.

SEE AIR NASCAR ON PAGE 32



AP photos

Above, NASCAR driver Mark Martin pulls his jet out onto a runway in this 1998 photo. So many drivers have private planes that they're often called the "NASCAR Air Force." But the convenience of air travel isn't without risks, as shown by Sunday's crash that killed 10 people flying to a race aboard a Hendrick Motorsports team plane. An aerial view of the wreckage from that crash is shown at the bottom right.



Race 33: Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500, 6:30 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson's win in the Subway 500 in Martinsville, Va., was marred by the news that a plane owned by his team, Hendrick Motorsports, crashed in thick fog en route to the race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner

Rick Hendrick. The Hendrick team also includes Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers.

Last year: Jeff Gordon held off a strong challenge from Tony Stewart and won the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500. The event was suspended one day because of rain.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Dale Earnhardt Jr. started at the Atlanta race in Martinsville and moved up to third place in the standings. He is second only to Kurt Busch in points. Earnhardt Jr. has a three-team race record since the Cup title.

Jimmie Johnson won the Subway 500 in Martinsville, Va., was marred by the news that a plane owned by his team, Hendrick Motorsports, crashed in thick fog en route to the race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner

Bobby Labonte won the Subway 500 in Martinsville, Va., was marred by the news that a plane owned by his team, Hendrick Motorsports, crashed in thick fog en route to the race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner

FAST FACTS

Kurt Busch finished fifth at Martinsville and built his lead in the championship standings to 96 points over Jeff Gordon. Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Golden Corral 500 at Hampton on March 14. No driver has swept both races in Atlanta since Bill Elliott in 1992. Ryan Newman won his series-high seventh pole at Martinsville. None of the remaining championship contenders has an average finish better than 10th at Atlanta.

Nextel Cup qualifying record
Jeffrey Bodine, 197.478 mph, 1997.

Nextel Cup race record
Bobby Labonte, 159.904 mph, Nov. 16, 1997.

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BUSCH SERIES

This week: Aaron's 312 at Hampton, Ga. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports)

Last race: Martin Truex Jr. extended his points lead by holding off Greg Biffle in a green-white-checker restart and winning the Sam's Town 250 at the Memphis Motorsports Park. Truex, who has six wins this season, is now 208 points ahead of Kyle Busch.

Last year: Greg Biffle passed Michael Waltrip for the lead with 10 laps left to win the Aaron's 312.

Fast facts: Busch has not won since posting consecutive victories at Indianapolis and Michigan in August, a span of seven races. Mark Martin is expected to make his fourth Busch start of the season this weekend. He has three wins and six top-10 finishes in nine career appearances with the series at Atlanta.

Next race: Bashas' Supermarkets 200, Nov. 6, Avondale, Ariz.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Jamie McMurray became the eighth driver in NASCAR history to win in the Cup series, the

Busch series and in a truck after taking the Kroger 200 in Martinsville, Va. Next race: Chevy Silverado 1500, Nov. 5, Avondale, Ariz.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Bruno Junqueira spoiled his teammate's bid to clinch the championship by winning the Lexmark Indy 300 in Australia. Sebastian Bourdais finished second and will take a 22-point lead over Junqueira into the season-ending race Nov. 7 in Mexico City.

Next race: Nov. 7, Mexico City.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-BMW, beating future McLaren teammate Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

INDY RACING

Last race: Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 19 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Kanaan finished second and became the first driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

POINTS RACE

After 32 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch 6,015
2. Jeff Gordon 5,918
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5,890
4. Jimmie Johnson 5,808
5. Mark Martin 5,791
6. Tony Stewart 5,769
7. Elliott Sauter 5,760
8. Matt Kenseth 5,755
9. Ryan Newman 5,749
10. Jeremy Mayfield 5,651
11. Jamie McMurray 4,053
12. Dale Jarrett 3,856
13. Kevin Harvick 3,809
14. Bobby Labonte 3,761
15. Casey Mears 3,755
16. Michael Waltrip 3,464
17. Jeff Burton 3,448
18. Rusty Wallace 3,428
19. Sterling Marlin 3,416
20. Greg Biffle 3,358

NCAA places Mississippi St. football on probation

BY JOEY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi State's football program was placed on probation by the NCAA for four years, stripped of eight scholarships over the next two seasons and banned from postseason play this season because of recruiting violations.

The NCAA announced Wednesday that its infractions committee found two former assistants and several boosters broke recruiting rules between 1998-2002. But alle-

School stripped of eight scholarships next two seasons

gations of unethical conduct against former coach Jackie Sherrill were dismissed.

Sherrill retired after the 2003 season and was replaced by Sylvester Croom. The Bulldogs (2-5) won their first Southeastern Conference game under Croom, the first black head football coach in SEC history, last Saturday when they upset Florida.

The NCAA's decision came two months after Mississippi State ex-

pected it.

"The uncertainty is gone," Croom said. "We can move forward and move our program in the direction we want it to go. ... We will not, under my watch, be in this situation again."

Thomas Yeager, chairman and commissioner of the NCAA committee, said the historical significance of hiring Croom was "immaterial to our conclusion," but credited Mississippi State for im-

ating "a new atmosphere surrounding rules compliance."

"There is a new direction with the program. ... Simply changing coaches does not necessarily mitigate [that] the committee will look favorably on that kind of personal action," Yeager said.

"In this case, it was a positive evolution."

The Bulldogs are allowed just 81 football scholarships for the 2005 and 2006 seasons, and are

limited to 45 expense-paid recruiting visits in each of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years — 11 per year fewer than the maximum allowed by the NCAA.

Mississippi State in April admitted to secondary rules violations with the football program, but denied the more serious NCAA allegations of offering to provide cash and other perks to recruits.

The school had limited itself to 83 scholarships in the 2005-06 academic year as part of a self-imposed penalty — down from the NCAA maximum of 85.

Brown big addition in Georgia backfield

5-foot-8 freshman teams with Ware to give Bulldogs another threat at running back

BY CHARLES ODOM
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Thomas Brown heard the doubters long before he arrived in Athens. In fact, some of the cynics were in his hometown.

The 5-foot-8, 185-pound Brown signed with Georgia even though many believed he would be too small to play tailback in the Southeastern Conference. Others thought Georgia already had enough tailbacks and Brown would get pushed to the back of the line or assigned another position.

Even some of his new teammates had their doubts — until the first practice in full pads.

"You thought he was smaller and not as fast, but as soon as you try to stop him you know he's a special talent," said safety Thomas Davis, one of Georgia's hardest hitters.

After projected starter Gregg Lumpkin sustained a season-ending knee injury during the first practice, Brown quickly moved up Georgia's depth chart.

Brown passed veterans Michael Cooper, Tony Milton and Tyson Brown and finally challenged starter Danny Ware — also a freshman — for the top tailback spot.

Ware is expected to start No. 10 Georgia in Saturday's

game against Florida, but Brown has earned unofficial co-starter status with back-to-back 100-yard games against Vanderbilt and Arkansas.

The 6-1, 212-pound Ware is regarded as a punishing runner. But Brown has won over his doubters with his surprising power and relentless style.

"It's just how he runs," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "That's what we saw on tape and even in our early scrimmages. He's just a tenacious runner. He's very powerful for a guy his size."

Richt says Brown has a similar build and style as Atlanta Falcons tailback Warrick Dunn, who played at Florida State where he was the Seminoles' offensive coordinator.

"He's built so low to the ground, he has good balance," Richt said. "A lot of guys don't really accelerate on contact. A lot of guys slow down when contact comes. He bursts into it, not necessarily to take a guy straight-on. He'll try to make a guy miss but he will keep his legs driving when a lot of guys will stop."

Brown, who is as effective running inside as on toss sweeps, is durable enough to take 25 or more carries in a game, though Richt says he prefers to utilize Georgia's depth at tailback.

Ware (506 yards rushing) and Brown (412) each rank among the SEC's top 10 rushers.



Georgia running back Thomas Brown (20) has rushed for over 100 yards the past two weeks in games against Vanderbilt and Arkansas.

So much for the doubters. "Even people in my high school, in my hometown, were questioning 'Why come to Georgia when they have all those tailbacks? You're never going to play,'" said Brown, out of Tucker High School near Atlanta. "I had to come here and work hard and prove myself."

Running behind offensive linemen whose average size is 6-6, 300 pounds, Brown can be difficult for defenses to spot.

"I think my size is a great advantage," Brown said.

Brown may have been a surprise earlier in the season for Georgia (6-1 overall, 4-1 SEC), but he has become known around the league after rushing for 80 or more yards in four games. Brown and Georgia with 23 carries for 107 yards in the Bulldogs' 20-14 win over Arkansas last week.

Brown had a season high in carries last week after Ware was slowed by a lung infection that de-

veloped from a bruised lung sustained earlier in the season.

Richt said Wednesday that Ware has a clean bill of health.

Richt called the competition for the starting job between Ware and Brown a "close race." They each topped 100 yards against Vanderbilt, giving Georgia two backs with 100 yards rushing in the same game for the first time since 1992, when Garrison Hearst and Mack Strong each reached the mark against South Carolina.

Georgia didn't have a 100-yard rusher in 2003, but Brown and Ware already have combined for five 100-yard games this season.

The freshmen are emerging as a strength at a time stopping the run has become a concern for Florida.

Mississippi State's Jerious Norwood rushed for 174 yards and two touchdowns in State's 38-31 upset win over Florida last week.

Florida ranks only seventh in the league in rushing defense.

BCS to field offers from TV networks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Bowl Championship Series could have a new television home for the 2006 season.

ABC has had the broadcast rights to the BCS since 1998, when the system for crowning a college football champion was formed by the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Pac-10.

The current contract runs out after the 2005 season.

ABC and the BCS have been negotiating a new contract since September, but have been unable to a deal. When the exclusive negotiation period ends next week, BCS officials will open the bidding to other networks.

"We're looking at quite a number of alternatives next week, and there's a good level of interest," Kevin O'Malley, television and marketing consultant to the BCS, said Wednesday.

Talks between the BCS and ABC are still alive, though.

"They still want to be very much in the mix," O'Malley said. "We want to have them in the mix."

BCS coordinator and Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said, "All of our options remain open to us, including reaching an agreement with ABC."

O'Malley and Weiberg declined to identify the other networks interested in acquiring the rights.

Even if he wants to, Spurrier return to Florida hardly a done deal

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

GAINESSVILLE, Fla. — All the trophies Steve Spurrier brought to Florida still line the hallways inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Six Southeastern Conference championships, two Heismans and a national title.

Spurrier's legacy remains — and it always will.

He gave the program its first Heisman Trophy in 1966, its first SEC title in 1991 and its only national championship in 1996. He

coached the Gators to 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

So if Spurrier wants to coach at Florida again, is there anything that would prevent his return? Maybe.

"Everybody thinks it's a done deal. It's not a done deal. It's a slam dunk," said Tommy Donahoe, president of Gators Boosters Inc., which raises money for the

school's athletic programs.

"Spurrier can't just ask for the job and get it. There's certainly a contingency out there that wants him back, but there also are people upset with some of the things he did before."

For everything Spurrier would seemingly return to Gainesville — credibility, victories and championships — he also brings some baggage.

Many fans are still upset over the way Spurrier left Florida. He called athletic director Jeremy

Foley off his beach house and dropped the news in the middle of the recruiting season.

His recruiting dropped the last few years — he admitted he left the "cupboard somewhat bare" — and he wanted to limit the number of stops he made on the annual tour of "Gator Clubs."

Speculation about his return has even prompted concern about his age (is 59 older than ideal?) and his motivation (will he leave again for the NFL?).

Would players, fans, boosters,

Foley and school president Bernie Machen be willing to trade potential for the chance to restore the Gators to the national elite? Would they be silly not to?

As for Spurrier and Foley, the AD says the relationship hasn't soured.

"Steve Spurrier and I were friends before he was the head football coach at the University of Florida, we're friends today and we'll be friends forever," Foley said. "Did we always see eye to eye and stuff? No, but our friendship has never been better."

WR Boldin set to make season debut for Cards

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin went through a full workout in pads Wednesday and said there's no doubt he'll play in Sunday's game at Buffalo.

"For the past couple of weeks, my goal has been to get back on the field without any setbacks — any swelling or any pain," he said. "I think I've reached that goal right now."

Boldin, last season's NFL rookie of the year, will be upgraded to probable on Thursday, coach Dennis Green said.

Green said that if Boldin is active for Sunday's game, "he'll play a significant amount."

Boldin has been sidelined since his right knee locked up during training camp on Aug. 10. He underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage.

Boldin missed a season at Florida State with an injured left knee, and that helped him understand what it takes to come back.

"Just be patient. I think that's the most important part — work hard and be patient," Boldin said. "You can't come back too soon because you'll just end up getting hurt again."

Hobbled Boldin expects to play against Raiders

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson missed practice

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis, (See Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league).

Panthers QB Stephen Davis (knee) will not play Sunday; WR Steve Smith (broken leg) out for season.

Raiders CB Charles Woodson (hip) status uncertain; QB Frank Reid (broken thumb) out for rest of season.

Redskins LB Lavarr Arrington (knee, thigh) doubtful; K John Hall (groin) doubtful.

Saints LB Bobby Engram (ankle) doubtful; LB Isaiah Kacyiarski (ankle) doubtful.

Titans QB Steve McNair (bruised chest) questionable.

Wednesday and will probably sit out Thursday because of a strained groin, but the San Diego Chargers running back expects to play against the Oakland Raiders. Tomlinson has been playing through the injury the past three weeks.

Two of Tomlinson's five biggest games as a pro came against the Raiders in 2003. He had a career-high 243 yards in a home win in the season finale, and 187 yards in an overtime loss at Oakland on Sept. 28.

But Tomlinson hasn't rushed for more than 65 yards in the past three games.

"It was pretty bad at first, but it's getting better," said Tomlinson, who was hurt in the second half of a home win against Tennessee on Oct. 3.

Vikings WR Moss practices with strained hamstring

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss practiced Wednesday despite a strained right hamstring, but Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice wouldn't say what kind of role his star receiver



LaDainian Tomlinson has missed parts of San Diego's past three games with a strained groin.

would play Sunday.

Moss was limited in practice and left early to get treatment for his hamstring, which he injured Oct. 17 at New Orleans. Tice sounded optimistic about Moss' recovery.

"He did really everything we wanted him to do and probably a little bit more," the coach said.

Moss made a token start last Sunday against Tennessee to keep his consecutive games streak alive at 102. He's expected to have a bigger role against this weekend against the Giants.

Redskins rookie Taylor arrested on drunken-driving charge

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins rookie Sean Taylor was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving under the influence and refusing a breathalyzer test.

Taylor was pulled over by a Virginia state trooper at about 2:45 a.m. EDT, on Washington's Interstate 495. The officer suspected Taylor had been drinking, and Taylor flunked some field sobriety tests, according to Virginia State Police Lt. Harry Nevlin.

Taylor was held for several hours in the Fairfax County Jail and released on an unsecured bond at about 10 a.m. He is due in court Dec. 1. A first offense is punishable by up to one year in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine.

49ers' first-round picks struggling

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers insist their salvation will arrive through the draft.

They hope years of bad contracts, unlucky injuries and salary-cap woes can be erased through solid choices in April.

The trouble is, the 49ers' record in restocking their roster isn't much more impressive than their 1-5 mark this season — particularly when it matters most.

San Francisco has made 10 first-round picks in the past 10 years. Only six are with the team, and not one has played a significant role for the 49ers this season.

Linebacker Julian Peterson and cornerback Mike Rumph are out for the year with injuries, while cornerback Ahmed Plummer, defensive end Andre Carter and left tackle Kwame Harris have been limited by lesser injuries.

Receiver Rashaun Woods, the top pick in last April's draft, is stuck as the 49ers' No. 5 receiver, still playing catch-up after getting hurt during training camp.

And except for Peterson, who became an All-Pro linebacker last season before his contract holdout and subsequent heel injury, none of the 10 first-round picks has been as good as the 49ers hoped.

"There are no classes in college that you can take to prepare you for being a first-round draft pick in the NFL," said Harris. "There are always more expectations in that position, and there's nothing you can do about it."

The 49ers love to tout the exploits of a roster stocked with more of their own draft choices than nearly any other team — but those choices haven't added up to a competitive team this season.

San Francisco, which plays at Chicago on Sunday night, has its worst record after six games since 1979.

Sure, there have been several

stellar picks by the 49ers in recent years. In fact, you could argue that the 49ers have more success in the seventh round of the draft than the first.

Quarterbacks Tim Rattay and Ken Dorsey, starting offensive linemen Kyle Kosier and Eric Hestmann, tight end Eric Johnson and even long-snapper Brian Jennings were final-round gems.

But the team's first-round picks — the ones who command the most money and scrutiny — haven't been much help in keeping the 49ers out of the cellar.

San Francisco had two total busts in the late 1990s — quarterback Jim Druckenmiller and defensive tackle Reggie McGrew — and a near-bust receiver J.J. Stokes, who hung around for eight years on the strength of his unrealized potential.

They drafted cornerback R.W. McQuarters in 1998, but traded him to the Bears before he developed into a dependable player.

Since then, San Francisco has picked six players who are works in progress — though there's no common theme to their various struggles and setbacks.

Not many in work force to do than Woods, quietly expected to be a major contributor to the 49ers' offense this season after McQuarters in 1998, but traded him to the Bears before he developed into a dependable player.

"I know I expect me to eventually come out and do well and justify where they picked me," Woods said.

Harris' struggles have been among the most dismaying to the 49ers, who hoped the 6-foot-7 tackle would be entrenched as the offensive line's first step now. Last winter, they got rid of Derrick Dester to pave the way for his ascension.

But Harris has been hurt for much of the season, and he still shows up on many highlight films failing to block a pass-rusher steamrolling Rattay or Dorsey.

Redskins are accurate Election Day predictors

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — This election season, Washington Redskins cornerback Fred Smoot has a predicament faced by many NFL players: a Democrat's background and a Republican's income.

"They turn Republican. I see it all the time," Smoot said. "It all goes back to changing your economic value."

Smoot, a black from modest means in Mississippi, has decided to choose his roots over his pocketbook. He is supporting John Kerry for president.

"When you go into a higher tax bracket, all of a sudden you don't want to vote for this candidate because he's going to raise taxes," Smoot said. "I thought about it. I'm not going to solely

vote for this candidate just because he's going to be a slave to a couple of dollars and it not turn out to be the best thing for me or my country."

That, however, presents Smoot with another dilemma: For Kerry to win, the Redskins have to lose on Sunday — at least according to a bizarre statistical correlation that's been accurate for seven decades.

"I'm hoping John Kerry can kind of reverse the curse," Smoot said. "This is the millennium for all trends to be broken." Since the Redskins became the Redskins in 1933, the result of the team's final home game before the presidential election has correctly predicted the White House winner. If the Redskins win, the incumbent party wins. If they lose, the incumbent party is ousted.

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Education Focus
In Sunday Scene, this Sunday

Mourners gather for vigil at Hendrick Motorsports

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Hundreds of candle-bearing mourners gathered outside the Hendrick Motorsports complex for a vigil Wednesday evening for 10 people who died in the crash of the team plane.

Team owner Rick Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces were among the victims when the plane went down on the way to a race Sunday in Virginia.

At dusk, the mourners lit candles while the Christian band MercyMe played on loudspeakers that were mounted above dozens of bouquets and cards.

There also was a large picture showing the victims in happier times with the inscription: "Always In Our Hearts."

Randle Skaggs of Denver, N.C., came to the service with her husband, Jeremy.

"The NASCAR community needs to stick together," she said, her eyes welling up with tears. "We feel like we know all these guys because we follow all the teams."

Her husband wore a cap that showed his support for one of Hendrick Motorsports' drivers, Jimmie Johnson, who won Sunday's Nextel Cup race at Martinsville.

Johnson didn't learn about the crash until after he won the Subway 500.

"It was a real roller coaster,"

Sports briefs

Skaggs said, holding his unlit candle before the ceremony began. "Everyone was so happy for a minute and then we heard the news. It made the race seem so unimportant."

The Beech 200 King Air was headed from Concord to Martinsville, Va., when it slammed into the side of Bull Mountain in Patrick Springs, Va., after missing its first landing attempt. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

Police: No alcohol or drugs in Strzelczyk at time of crash

HERKIMER, N.Y. — Former NFL player Justin Strzelczyk did not have alcohol or drugs in his system when he died after leading police on a highway chase, authorities said.

State police initially believed the one-time lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers was driving while saying he threw a beer bottle out the window during the pursuit. State police investigator James Hunt said Thursday troopers have since confirmed it was a plastic soda bottle.

Police are testing the liquid inside but it appears that Strzelczyk had been chewing tobacco and was using the bottle as a spittoon.



A Hendrick Motorsports employee places flowers at a memorial site during a vigil on Wednesday at Hendrick Motorsports in Concord, N.C.

Strzelczyk, 36, died Sept. 30 after his pickup truck slammed into a tanker truck and exploded after a 90-mph chase along a 40-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway.

Strzelczyk, an offensive lineman, played with the Steelers for nearly a decade until the team released him in 2000.

Spencer loses his Nextel ride

CORNELIUS, N.C. — Jimmy Spencer was fired by Morgan McClure Motorsports, just days after he was arrested and accused of interfering with police officers as they attempted to serve a warrant on his son.

Spencer has driven 25 races for the team this season without posting a top-10 finish. The team didn't indicate whether the firing was because of Spencer's arrest.

On Sunday night, officers went to Spencer's home to arrest James Jonathan Spencer Jr., 18, on a misdemeanor charge of injury to personal property. He is accused of pouring paint on two cars at a Cornelius home Oct. 6.

Garcia, Lara lead Volvo Masters

SOTOGRA, Spain — Sergio Garcia shot 4-under-par 67 in windy conditions Thursday to share the first-round lead of the Volvo Masters with fellow Spaniard Jose Manuel Lara, who was stung by a bee early in his round.

Brian Davis and Alastair Fothergill were at 68, with Luke Donald, Peter O'Malley, Christian Cevier and Jonathan Lomas at 69. Colin Montgomerie, who won on this course in 1993, and shared the title with Bernhard Langer two years ago, shot 75 in the final event of the season on the European Tour.

Wizards' Haywood gets three for fighting

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brendan Haywood of the Washington Wizards was suspended for three games by the NBA on Wednesday for fighting during a preseason game against the Chicago Bulls.

Antonio Davis and Eddy Curry of the Bulls received two-game suspensions, Washington's Larry Hughes drew a one-game suspension and Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich was fined \$10,000.

"It's tough," Curry said of his suspension. "I wasn't expecting that. But there's nothing I can do about it."

The penalties were announced Wednesday by NBA vice president Stu Jackson, who found Haywood most at fault for the fight late in the third quarter of Chicago's 100-95 victory on Monday night.

Haywood, Davis and Curry were suspended for hitting punches, while Hughes was penalized for initiating the confrontation by head-butting Hinrich.

The suspensions take effect with the start of

the NBA regular season next week.

"We accept the ruling handed down by the league, however we do feel it's heavy-handed," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "We will have to step up and come together as we will be short-handed for the first three games of the regular season."

Washington guard Gilbert Arenas has already been suspended by the NBA for one game because he failed to maintain proper registration of a handgun in 2003.

Suns' Stoudemire gets contract extension

PHOENIX — Amare Stoudemire, the 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year, had his contract extended Wednesday by the Phoenix Suns, who renewed their fourth-year option on the contract.

Stoudemire will receive \$2.6 million in the 2005-06 season, then he will be a restricted free agent. That gives the Suns the right of first refusal, meaning they could keep him by matching another team's offer.

The 6-foot-10 Stoudemire, who turns 22 next month, was the first player to enter the

NBA directly from high school and win its top rookie honor.

Pacers' A. Johnson out 6-8 weeks

with broken hand
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers backup point guard Anthony Johnson broke his right hand in Tuesday's preseason game against Memphis and is expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks.

The eight-year veteran, the primary backup to starter Jamaal Tinsley, had his hand placed in a cast on Wednesday — the same day center Jeff Foster had arthroscopic surgery to repair frayed cartilage in his right hip. He is also expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks.

Johnson will not need surgery.
Scott Pollard will start at center while Foster is out.

Forwards Jermaine O'Neal (sprained left foot), Ron Artest (sore right knee) and Jonathan Bender (sore left knee) and center David Harrison (sprained left shoulder) have also been injured this preseason.

Carlie said there is "major concern" that O'Neal might not be ready for the regular-season opener at Cleveland on Nov. 3.

Brown said Wednesday, the 42nd day of the lockout.

Daly and Sackin talked about last month's World Cup of Hockey tournament, a joint venture between the league and the players association, and other issues.

No plans were made for future meetings.

The NHL regular season was due to begin Oct. 13, but games are being canceled by teams on a 45-day rolling basis.

Air NASCAR: Fast transit away of life

AIR NASCAR, FROM PAGE 29

Driver Alan Kulicki and three others were killed in the crash of a private plane in 1993 while flying to a race in Bristol, Tenn.

Later that same year, Davey Allison died in the crash of his helicopter as he tried to land at Talladega Superspeedway.

There had been no aircraft-related fatalities in NASCAR since, but that doesn't mean there haven't been accidents.

In one three-week period in November 2003, Martin's plane blew two tires taking off from a Goodyear, Ariz., airport after racing at Phoenix, a plane carrying Petty crewmen also blew a tire on takeoff after a test earlier in Phoenix, and driver Tony Stewart's plane hit a deer while landing to refuel at a rural Texas airport on the way to the Phoenix race. There were no injuries.

"Things happen but in most cases, it's just a matter of being inconvenienced, having to wait for repairs or hitching a ride on somebody else's plane," Martin said. "There's still no substitute for the private planes."

There is, however, a substitute for the small planes. Martin's team owner, Jack Roush, bought his 727s four years ago after starting to feel less and less comfortable about having up to 16 small planes in the air each race weekend.

"I have five teams and we'd have five small planes going to the track on Thursday night or Friday and five more on Sunday morning," Roush said. "There's 100 small private drivers were usually flying their planes in and out, too."

"There's tremendous congestion in these airports, although I think the FAA does a great job on regulating the air traffic associated with our events. Still, I didn't feel like I wanted to continue to have the responsibility for 16 airplanes, all the maintenance and pilot training."

Since his team has been using the big planes, with pilots trained for commercial airlines transporting most of his people, Roush said he is sleeping better.

"I'm confident as I can be in the safety of our planes and the ability of our pilots, I still breathe a sigh of relief every time we get through a race weekend without a problem," Roush said.

NHL officials meet, but lockout is not a topic of conversation

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Negotiators for the NHL and its players' union discussed various topics in their first face-to-face meeting in over a month, but the league's labor problems were not the focus of the talks.

Ted Saskin, the senior director of the players association, was in New York on

business Tuesday and got together with Bill Daly — the NHL's chief legal officer.

The sides had not met in person since the last negotiating session on Sept. 9, one week before the NHL imposed a lockout following the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

"I know they were in the same place, but it was more of a conversation as opposed to a negotiation," NHL spokesman Frank

Brown said Wednesday, the 42nd day of the lockout.

Daly and Sackin talked about last month's World Cup of Hockey tournament, a joint venture between the league and the players association, and other issues.

No plans were made for future meetings.

The NHL regular season was due to begin Oct. 13, but games are being canceled by teams on a 45-day rolling basis.

During the last negotiating session in Toronto, the NHLPA proposed a luxury-tax based system that was rejected by the league.

The NHL wants a system that guarantees "cost certainty," which the players association says is akin to a salary cap — a solution it refuses to accept.

Player representatives from all 30 clubs will meet with union leadership in Toronto on Tuesday to get an update on the lockout.

Red Sox: Boston ends 86 years of futility

RED SOX, FROM BACK PAGE

It was Boston's sixth championship, but the first after 86 years of frustration and futility, after two world wars, the Great Depression, men on the moon, and the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.

After all that, on an eerie night when the moon went dark in a total eclipse, MVP Manny Ramirez and the Red Sox made it look easy.

They became the third straight wild-card team to win the Series, and the first club to win eight straight in a postseason.

Gone was the heartbreak of four Game 7 losses since their last title, a drought—some insist it was a curse—that really began after they sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920.

Damon's leadoff homer against

Jason Marquis and Trot Nixon's two-out, two-run double on a 3-0 pitch in the third were the key. Lowe and the bullpen needed.

"They outplayed us in every category, so it ended up not being a terrific competition," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

"We were ready to play. We didn't play the game."

Having won the first-round clincher against Anaheim in relief and then winning Game 7 at Yankee Stadium, Lowe blanked the Cards on a mere three hits for seven innings.

Relievers Bronson Arroyo and Alan Embree worked the eighth and Keith Foulke finished it off for his first save.

Even Yadore Doug Mientkiewicz caught Poulk's toss on Edgar Renteria's grounder for

the last out, the Red Sox were rushing out of the dugout. Boston players streamed in from the bullpen, and they all came together in a pulsating pile between the mound and first base.

With flashbulbs popping, the hugging and jumping was electrifying. And why not? The day that would never quite come for a generation of Red Sox players and fans had arrived.

"We can't reverse what was a long time ago," first-year manager Terry Francona said. "This was our team this year. You can't do anything else about any other year."

Now the Red Sox get to raise the World Series banner next April 11 in the home opener at Fenway Park, with the vanquished Yankees in town forced to watch. No telling who will be

there—18 Boston players are potential free agents, including Ramirez and Lowe.

Lowe followed up peak performances by Curt Schilling and Martinez, capping off a year in which Boston traded away popular shortstop Nomar Garciaparra.

"I'm so happy. I'm happy for the fans in Boston, I'm happy for Johnny Pesky, for Bill Buckner, for (Bob) Stanley and (Calvin) Schiraldi and all the great Red Sox players who can now be re-membered as the great players that they were," Schilling said.

Schilling got himself traded from Arizona to Boston last November, eager to beat the Yankees and put the Red Sox in the World Series for the first time since 1918. He made it worth his while, with the win ensuring him an extra \$15 million in a contract he negotiated himself.



Manny Ramirez

Ramirez chosen as Series MVP

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Manny Ramirez will cherish this moment forever, same as every Red Sox fan from the bustle of downtown Boston to the coastal mountains of Maine.

Ramirez and the Red Sox finished a four-game sweep of St. Louis with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night, giving them their first championship since 1918. Now the shy kid who grew up in the shadow of Yankee Stadium owns a treasured spot in baseball lore — he is Boston's first World Series MVP.

"I never thought I'd get to be part of a World Series winner. But it's fun, let me tell you," Ramirez said. "Before we went to spring training, I told my wife — 'I'm going to be the MVP of something. And I did it.'"

He batted .412 (7-for-17) with a homer and four RBIs against the Cardinals, helping the Red Sox end 86 years of futility.

That was the idea when then-general manager Dan Duquette signed Ramirez to a \$160 million, eight-year deal in December 2000.

Ramirez put up prodigious power numbers during his first three seasons in Boston. But his awful defense, deplorable baserunning and hefty contract prompted the team to place him on waivers last offseason.

The front office then tried to trade him to Texas for AL MVP Alex Rodriguez. The deal fell through, and Ramirez was back in left field this season, flubbing fly balls and hitting homers over the Green Monster at Fenway Park.

He won his first AL home run crown, connecting 43 times. He also led the league in slugging percentage (.613) and finished with 130 RBIs. But his absent-minded play kept skeptics wondering if he was really the guy to finally carry Boston to glory in October.

A long lineage of great sluggers had tried and failed, from Jimmie Fox to Ted Williams to Carl Yastrzemski. But it's Ramirez who became a champion, earning every penny of that enormous contract.

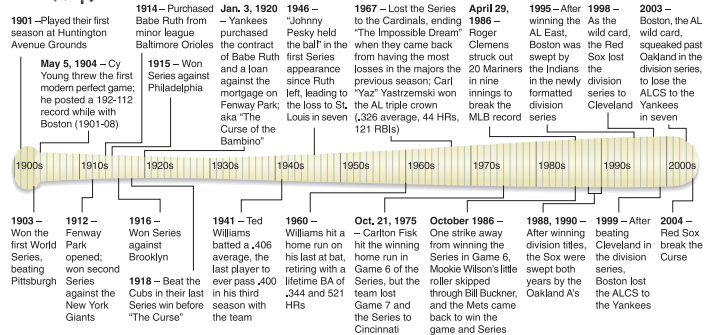
After the game, Ramirez and Barry Bonds received the 2004 Hank Aaron Award, recognizing the outstanding offensive player in each league. Ramirez also won with Cleveland in 1999, when he had 165 RBIs.



Red Sox reverse the Curse

The Red Sox finally broke "The Curse of the Bambino," sweeping the Cardinals in four games to win the World Series. This comes after beating the Yankees in the ALCS, achieving the greatest postseason series comeback in history. Many people attributed their 86-year title drought to trading Babe Ruth to the Yankees.

Highlights and blunders of the Boston Red Sox



SOURCE: Major League Baseball

Cards: Powerful St. Louis lineup bows out quietly vs. Boston

CARDS, FROM BACK PAGE

"The odds obviously were against us," said Bill DeWitt Jr., the team's general partner and chairman of the board. "If we had won tonight it would be something to build on. But every time we hit the ball hard, it was right at somebody."

Mostly, St. Louis went quietly. The Cardinals scored one run in the last two games at home, where they had been 6-0 in the postseason, and were a woe of 4-for-28 with runners in scoring position in the Series.

The Cardinals totaled 12 runs, the fewest since the Braves had nine when they were swept by the Yankees in 1999.

The line seemed drained out of the Cardinals after their most forgettable day of the Series, pitch-

er Jeff Suppan frozen between third and home with one out in the third inning of Game 3. Instead of tying the score at 1 on a run that the Red Sox had been conceding, Suppan ran into a double play.

Starting with that at-bat, the Cardinals reached base only seven times in 54 plate appearances the rest of the Series, getting a homer, a double, three singles and two walks against a Red Sox staff that was considered far from dominant. They advanced only four runners into scoring position in Game 4.

It seemed as if he was shaping up as a slugger's series after the Red Sox's 11-9 victory in Game 1. After that, the Cardinals scored just three runs.

Cleanup hitter Scott Rolen, second in the NL with 124 RBIs, was

0-for-15 with one RBI. He finished the year in a 12-for-75 skid after a comparable haul from a strained left calf in mid-September.

No. 5 hitter Jim Edmonds, who hit 42 homers and had a career-best 111 RBIs, was 1-for-15 with no RBIs. Sanders was 0-for-9 with five strikeouts before getting benched in favor of John Mabry in Game 4. Mabry continued that trend, going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

Albert Pujols and Larry Walker held their moments, advancing with any support from the rest of the offense. Walker was 4-for-5 in Game 1 and homered for the Cardinals' lone run in Game 3. Pujols had three of St. Louis' five hits in Game 2 but was absent in the clincher before singling to lead off the ninth.

Pujols, Rolen and Edmonds were horrible in the clutch, going a combined 1-for-12. None of them got a chance for redemption in Game 4.

Pitching shouldered its share of the blame. Before Jason Marquis gutted out six innings in the 3-0 Game 4 loss, the Cardinals had gotten very little from the rotation.

Marquis was the first starter to last long enough to qualify for a victory. The three pitchers who preceded him lasted a total of 11 1/3 innings and allowed 15 runs.

Cardinals pitchers allowed at least one run in the first inning of all four games. St. Louis was dominated so completely, it never led.

"It's amazing," said Game 1 loser Woody Williams. "We were talking about that on the bench. Let's get one lead and see what happens. But it never happened."

SPORTS



2003 NFL rookie of the year Boldin finally ready to make season debut for Arizona, Page 31

Red Sox 86 curse

Boston wins World Series for first time since 1918

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — They are now forever a part of New England lore, names such as Pokey Reese right up there with Paul Revere and Plymouth Rock.

Because these Boston Red Sox — yes, the Boston Red Sox! — are World Series champions at long, long last. No more curse and no doubt about it.

Pedro Martinez paraded the trophy down the left-field line, hoisting it high over his head with both hands after Boston won it for the first time since 1918, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday night for a four-game sweep.

Thousands of Red Sox fans at Busch Stadium roared. Seeing was believing, but they still couldn't believe their eyes.

"We know people who are 90 years old who have just said: 'Just one championship before I die,'" Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said.

Johnny Damon homered on the fourth pitch of the game, Derek Lowe made it stand up and the Red Sox wrapped up a Series in which they never trailed.

Ridiculed and reviled through decades of defeat, the Red Sox didn't just defeat the Cardinals. They dominated the team with the best record in baseball.

"All of our fans have waited all their lives for this night, and it's finally here. These guys did it for you, New England," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Chants of "Thank you, Red Sox!" bounced all around the ballpark when it was over, with Boston fans as revved-up as they were relieved.

Only 10 nights earlier, the Red Sox were just three outs from getting swept by the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series before becoming the first team in baseball postseason history to overcome a 3-0 deficit.

SEE RED SOX ON PAGE 35



Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek jumps into the arms of pitcher Keith Foulke after beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 to win the World Series on Wednesday in St. Louis. The Red Sox, who in the ALCS became the first team to win a best-of-seven series after trailing 3-0, won their first title since 1918.

St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Jim Edmonds, second from left, and shortstop Edgar Renteria, right, watch dejectedly during Wednesday night's loss to Boston in Game 4. The Cardinals, who won 105 games during the regular season, hit .109 and had a team ERA of 6.09 in the Series.

AP



Ramirez becomes Boston's first Series MVP

Page 35

Long-suffering Red Sox fans can celebrate at last

Page 34

Lowe reaches high point by winning clincher

Page 34

Cards birds of another Series play

BY R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals seemingly could do no wrong during the regular season. But that 105-win team bore no resemblance to the bunch that flopped in the World Series, losing 3-0 to Boston on Wednesday night and getting swept in four games by the Red Sox.

"I wish we would have given them a tougher fight," Reggie Sanders said. "They put the pressure on and we didn't have pressure on them at all, so it was an easy run for them."

The Cardinals had the National League's best offense and the second-best pitching staff. Not in the World Series, where they batted a feeble .190 and had a 6.09 ERA. The lineup was littered with historically bad performances at the plate, most notably by their trio of MVP candidates. And, the Cardinals' rotation, minus injured Chris Carpenter, was exposed as average.

"They outplayed us in every category," manager Tony La Russa said. "So it ended up not being a terrific competition."

The Cardinals waited 17 years between World Series trips, only to end the season with a dubious distinction: Only one team had more victories before getting swept, the 1954 Indians, who were 111-43 before losing to the New York Giants.

The wait was nearly as long for La Russa. Maybe it was even more gut-wrenching on a personal level, considering that in his last shot at the championship in 1990 his heavily favored Oakland Athletics got swept by the Cincinnati Reds.

After falling behind 3-0, ownership would have been happy with one victory. They were realistic not to expect another comeback like the Red Sox pulled off in the AL Championship Series against the Yankees.

SEE CARDS ON PAGE 35

Risks not limited to track for 'NASCAR Air Force' Page 29

